

Abstract

SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

WORKSHOP 1.1:

Managing Risks in Climate Change and Disasters in the Seas of East Asia

Sustaining Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Services for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

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Saensuk Municipality is located in Chonburi Province and is about 74 kilometers from Bangkok. It has an area of 20 km² and a population of about 200,000. Saensuk is known for its sandy beaches, fisheries resources, coastal and upland forests, cultural and traditional attractions, and various festivals and events many of which are related to the sea. It is a popular destination for local and international tourists alike, and receives about 1.5 million visitors annually. As such, most of Saensuk's local people are engaged in coastal fishery and commercial activities and services that rely on a healthy marine and coastal ecosystem.

The sustainability of Saensuk's coastal resources and environment, tourism industry and local livelihoods, however, are facing serious threats from 1) coastal erosion arising from a combination of coastal developments in adjacent areas and climatic changes that affect natural coastal processes; 2) oil spills due to proximity to international port, oil refineries and industrial estates; 3) coastal pollution from local and transboundary sources; and 4) habitat degradation.

Considering the importance of the marine and coastal ecosystems and the benefits being derived by the municipality and its people, and the current and future threats to these ecosystems, the local government of Saensuk has taken steps to protect Saensuk's natural resources and environment through inter-agency and multi-sectoral collaboration, and local stakeholders' participation. Key measures undertaken as part of the local ICM program include:

- a) Conduct of coastal erosion study in order to determine critical areas and impacts, and appropriate actions including engineering and natural measures;
- b) Protection and rehabilitation of mangrove areas, coral reefs and sandy beaches;
- c) Development and implementation of a local oil spill contingency plan in support of the national plan, including trainings for local responders;
- d) Waste management through implementation of policies, regulations and methods that promote stakeholder education and participation; and
- e) Various programs to improve local fisheries and community livelihood.

In addition to addressing current threats to sustainable coastal development, the ICM mechanisms that are in place in Saensuk and the measures to protect local marine and coastal ecosystems are expected to enhance their preparedness for future climate and non-climate risks.



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