

Enhancing Multi-sectoral Coordination and Stakeholder Participation for Sustainable Coastal Development and Climate Change Adaptation in Chonburi, Thailand

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Chonburi, a coastal province in Thailand is located 80 km southeast of Bangkok. Situated along the inner Gulf of Thailand, it has a 160 km long coastline and is rich in natural resources and well known for its industry, as well as, local and international tourism. Since the early stages of its development into an economic hub, the province has been beset by numerous issues relating to conflicting utilization of coastal resources, habitat damage and loss, and pollution. Coastal communities have also grown in size and complexity.

In 2001, the provincial government of Chonburi initiated the development and implementation of an integrated coastal management (ICM) demonstration project, which led to the adoption of ICM in its policy making and management through the adoption of the Chonburi Coastal Strategy in 2004. ICM implementation in Chonburi presently involves 26 local governments covering the entire coastline of the province.

In recent years, the environmental issues in the province have been compounded by the threat of impacts from global warming and climate change on the well being of human populations and coastal ecosystems. New risks and challenges have emerged for local policy makers and managers to tackle. With a functional mechanism for inter-agency and multi-sectoral



23-27 November • Manila, Philippines

coordination and stakeholder participation, and a common framework for addressing priority threats and issues, Chonburi is on the right track toward enhancing its capacity to adapt and respond to the challenges of climate change. In addition, the governing bodies in Chonburi must also further adapt their past experiences and practices to address the additional risks from climate change.

Here we detail and discuss the site specific problems and issues, the measures undertaken through the Chonburi ICM program and the local governments that address the province's issues and constraints, the outcomes and benefits of the ICM measures undertaken particularly in relation to climate change adaptation, as well as the constraints and challenges in adapting the well established ICM concepts and practices to deal with additional risks posed by climate change.