

# Sustainable Coastal Aquaculture to Improve Food Security and Livelihood of Communities in Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Project, Chonburi Province, Thailand

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The Chonburi Coastal Management (ICM) Project, a partnership between the provincial government of Chonburi Province and regional program on Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia or PEMSEA has been commenced in 2001. By late 2008, a total of 26 local government units were part of the Chonburi ICM network which covers the entire 160-km coastline of Chonburi province. The Chonburi coastal strategy serves as an integrated plan for activities contributing towards sustainable development of the province including food security and alleviation of poverty. There are various activities contributing to local fishery and livelihood development that apply multi-sectoral engagement which are crab condominium for crab conservation, floating mussel farms, habitat protection and restoration, and promotion of sustainable tourism development. The results from these projects has been reported for the improvement of food security and livelihood of the communities such as 2-4 times increase in

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swimming blue crab catch from 2005-2008 after the initiation of crab condominium project and a number of families involved. For floating mussel farms, there are 70 families in Sriracha district involved and increase in the number of fish in the area close to the floating farms. There are additional outcomes from these projects include promotion of awareness and recognition for responsible fishing and ecotourism at Koh Loy public park. The implemented ICM project's habitat protection and restoration are mangrove reforestation, seagrass transplantation, artificial reef establishment, shoreline protection and underwater and beach clean-up and also community-based oil spill warning system. The Chonburi ICM project has been promoting not only coastal protection, restoration and conservation efforts, but also sustainable tourism development. Many marine conservation activities have been used to draw both local and foreign visitors to Chonburi such as a sea turtle conservation facility at Koh Loy Public Park in Sriracha Municipality. Moreover, selected youths from local schools have been trained as eco-travel guided in several tourist areas to develop sense of responsibility for marine conservation and environmental protection. ICM implementation in Chonburi are considered to be significantly contributing toward local fishery and livelihood development and building of local capacity to address various challenges to sustainable coastal development, including enhancing food security and livelihood. The Chonburi ICM project is currently focused on further improving the governance mechanism to support its scaling up and long-term implementation, and on sharing of experiences and demonstrated good practices for replication and adaptation in other coastal areas within and outside the country.