

**FINAL PROJECT EVALUATION:
INTEGRATED COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN PATHEW DISTRICT, CHUMPHON PROVINCE
(ICRM-PD)**

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I. CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions have been derived based on the assessment of the project design and project outcomes.

Project design

The project design including its objectives is very well formulated because it is able to target the main issues that need to be resolved in the project site such as coastal protection and livelihood activities. These are the major issues concerning the local people as well as the region that has been prioritized by this project. The funds for the implementation of the project are adequate and the efficiency of the project leaders and members in managing, coordinating and facilitating the activities are commendable because they are able to reach the targets and intended beneficiaries. Even the inputs from external stakeholders are fully extended to ensure the success of the project. Although there are some activities which are not successfully implemented, the overall assessment of the project design is that it was excellently devised in the context of the project site. The application of this design may not necessarily work in other places but the lessons learned can be shared and may be adapted to suit needs in respective localities.

Project results

The activities of this project are well planned that every aspect of the issues are resolved. Baseline survey is assessed as very good because it provides all the important details needed to identify and prioritize the issues in the area. The CBRM activities are very significant in the understanding and learning process of the local people regarding the protection and conservation of the environment and the coastal resources. The local businesses of the villages are very significant as well because these provided them with alternative and/or additional sources of income to sustain their daily needs. More importantly, the dissemination of information materials to local people is a great way to keep them updated with and informed about recent developments and enables them to identify ways where they can participate and extend help. Lastly, the resource enhancement activities are very important in engaging the interest and participation of the local people rather than just giving them theoretical knowledge which is difficult for them to visualize and understand.

However, the weak point is the lack of collaboration between the OrBorTor and other agencies involved in this project. There is a need to gain their interest and full participation in this project. This is the reason for the failure to achieve decentralization that was planned at the initial stages. Instead, local ownership was promoted which yield very good results by boosting local people's confidence and capacity in resolving matters by themselves with minimal assistance from outsiders.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are suggested to ensure the sustainability of the project.

1. Project Design

The project design should focus on proactive strategies especially in making project proposals, workplans and annual plans. Monitoring mechanisms and indicators should be prepared to evaluate the planned and



contingent activities. Proper orientation and initial capacity building activities for people involved in the project are needed before the project's commencement. This will enable them to know clearly their functions and responsibilities. This will adequately prepare them to address issues in the field. Funds should be adequately provided and disbursed before the start of the activity to avoid delays in implementation.

2. Project results

Base line survey

There is a need to build the capacity of the local people regarding the conduct of survey and analysis through classroom training and hands-on experience. This gives them the necessary knowledge, skill and confidence to do it by themselves. This results to a greater sense of ownership, responsibility and accountability in the management of the environment and resources by the local people.

Encourage and extend CBRM

Capacity building on CBRM concept is needed by the local people to help them understand about the activities they are participating at. There is also a need for them to exchange information and knowledge with other groups from other places, i.e how to ensure the success of their activity such as the LEU.

Encourage local business

Learning new technologies and techniques to improve their production will greatly help local people in their livelihood. It is necessary to update local people regarding management, accounting, planning and marketing systems.

Enhance human resources capability and participation

Exchange of information and experiences for the PFG from others areas in the country. Since they are just starting, there is a need for them to be exposed and see how other groups from other places are doing things.

Develop extension methodologies and extension systems

Published documents provided to the local people are sufficient. At this stage, it is useful to train them how to make their own information materials since they will be responsible in managing their own activities.

Rehabilitate and enhance coastal resources

Additional financial support is needed to facilitate the rehabilitation and enhancement of coastal resources. The active participation of schools and communities is a good indication of their interest in continuing with these projects.

3. Others

Present gathered data to policy makers

The project indicates that high quality information and data obtained through scientific research, upgraded extension materials, and increased public support through communication of the results are crucial to guide policymakers and decision makers in properly formulating policies and for practitioners to improve and correctly implement coastal zone management principles. The main purpose is an informed decision-making, policy-making and management practice. Sharing of information should not be limited at the Provincial Level. It should reach the National Level especially those departments working on environmental protection and coastal zone management policies. It is important that they get the right information as inputs to ensure successful planning and implementation of policies that are also applicable to other areas of the country.

Encourage more local community participation

The project reveals that coastal habitats can be managed and protected better by the local communities as they possess profound knowledge of the environment and are the key users of its resources. This is the fundamental principle of community-based management. A strong political will is needed from local institutions to likewise provide economic incentives to sustain the community efforts. Continuous technical and some financial support from the government are also needed especially in the first phase of the transition period when the project is being handed over to local people as the project ends.

The project implementation confirms the need of enhancing local community participation in coastal environment conservation, directly (e.g. community patrol) and indirectly (e.g. enhancing the capacity of the local community), and in the sustainable uses of coastal resources with associate economic benefit. It is also important to emphasize the active involvement of the coastal communities at the earliest stages of planning and management. The actual implementation of resource management has to be carried out at community level. Not only does this ensure the active participation of the community but it also makes use of the fact that local and indigenous communities often possess substantial accumulated specific knowledge on how best to manage resources. Management should make maximum use of this traditional knowledge.

The project also affirms that the most promising approaches to coastal and marine conservation involve an adaptive management scheme at the municipal level, where community-based development specialists, cross-trained in environmental and natural resource monitoring, assist the municipality in the development of regulations for local community development.

Encourage participation of Or Bor Tor

As mentioned in the project results, the common comment from local people and government agencies is the lack of coordination among Or Bor Tor, government agencies and the communities. The importance of gaining full participation of all stakeholders should not be underestimated. Support is not only limited to nor does it only refer to financial support. Once the full cooperation of Or Bor Tor is achieved, it is still possible to let them take charge of some of the activities of the project when it is fully turned over.

Adopt an inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral approach at all levels

New problems are becoming increasingly complex and demand inter-sectoral coordination. At present, responsibilities for policy-making and implementation are generally dispersed among several agencies or offices, consequently, it is not clear to which agency or office certain mandates are allocated. The result is an overlap in competence. Hence, when something goes wrong, no specific agency can be pinpointed to resolve the issue and the entire sector suffers. Integrated management seeks to reduce the social costs associated with sectoral activities accruing both inside and across sectors.

Enforce the laws and regulations

Effective enforcement of laws through local community participation is indeed a crucial instrument for coastal area protection and management. Through training in ecology and paralegal aspects, the project can succeed in enhancing local community involvement in the protection of their coastal resources. For example, the Local Enforcement Unit (LEU) should be activated to reduce illegal fishing in the area. Local people should be encouraged to stop their illegal fishing activities.

Provide financial support

It is still advisable to provide financial support to the local groups until such time that they can stand on their own. Also, there should be emergency funds allocated in case of unexpected circumstances that will affect project activities.

Scientific research and assessment of the activities of the project

There is a need to conduct further scientific research and assessment on some of the activities of the project such as the artificial reefs, fish enhancement device, and stock enhancement. It is important to know the scientific basis of the effects or impacts of the activity to the environment and the coastal resources.