

EMCOR Information Center at Mae Pim Beach, Rayong, Thailand

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ABSTRACT

An Information Center was constructed at Mae Pim beach in the province of Rayong, Thailand in order to address the lack of knowledge of the coastal communities within and adjacent Rayong province regarding the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources. The information Center was realized through the efforts of the Eastern Marine and Coastal Resources Research Center (EMCOR) in cooperation with the Sunthonphu district and Ford Motor Company. Information regarding the biology, ecology, and conservation of marine endangered species; marine ecology; and researches conducted by EMCOR can be found in the Information Center.

KEYWORDS: information center, Rayong province, east coast of Thailand

INTRODUCTION

In the past centuries, Thailand's marine and coastal resources had been exploited haphazardly resulting in the decrease in mangrove forests and sea grass beds (which serve as nurseries for fishes), and destruction of coral reefs among others contributing to the decline of biodiversity as in figure 1. There are some causes of declining of marine animals such as sea turtle, dolphins, whales and dugong. More over some human activities such as fishing gears, environmental pollutions from industry and municipality discharge and boat travelling around shallow water are the cause of decreasing of dugong (Adulyanukosol, 2545; Intarasook, 2546) On October 2002, the Ministry of

Natural Resources and Environment and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) was established. The DMCR was mandated to develop relevant regulations regarding marine and coastal resource utilization with the objective to look after the marine and coastal resources through conservation, rehabilitation, and to ensure socio-economic integrity for future generations.

Activities in the management plan of the DMCR include mangrove reforestation and educating and inspiring the public to participate in the activities of the Department in promoting sustainable marine and coastal resource utilization.

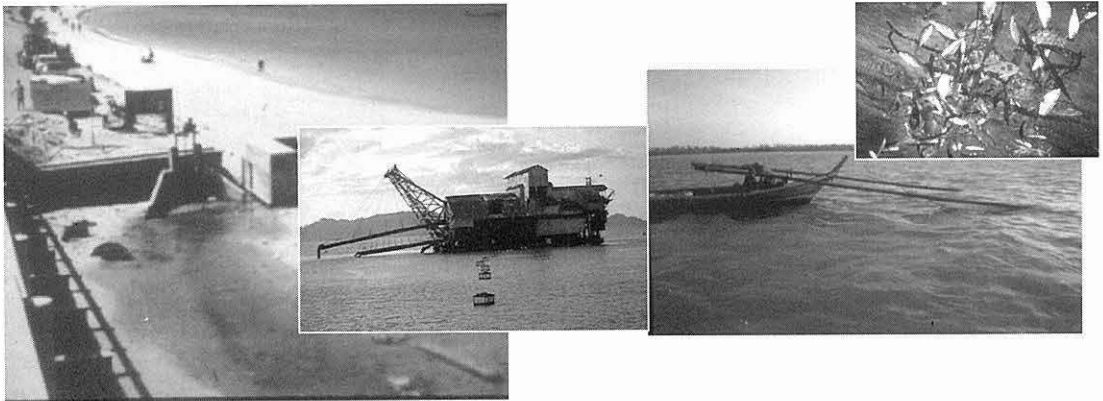


Fig. 1 Sample of haphazard exploitations

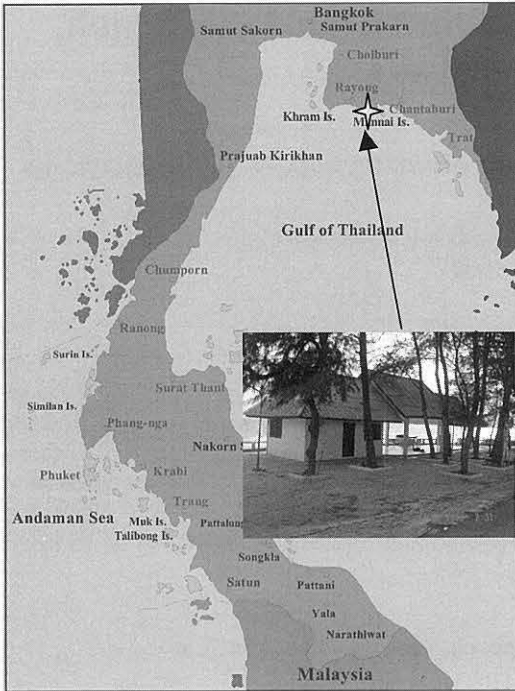


Fig. 2. General location of Information Center in Rayong province

EMCOR INFORMATION CENTER

In order to effect the education and information dissemination component, the Eastern Marine and Coastal Resource Research Center (EMCOR) of DMCR in cooperation with the municipality of Sunthonphu district and the Ford Motor Company established an information center in Mae Pim beach, Rayong province, east coast of Thailand. The EMCOR Information Center was established in Mae Pim beach in order to facilitate an easy access in communication and information within and adjacent Sunthonphu district and to promote Rayong province as a tourist destination.

OBJECTIVE OF THE EMCOR INFORMATION CENTER

1. To provide a venue for public service in the field of marine and coastal resource management and to serve as focal point for the involved local stakeholders of Rayong, the government, academe, and non-government organizations.
2. To promote understanding and awareness of the threats and degradation in marine and coastal resources and to inspire public participation in marine and coastal resources and to inspire public participation in marine and coastal resource rehabilitation and conservation.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE EMCOR INFORMATION CENTER

The EMCOR Information Center is furnished with molded statues of marine endangered species that include sea turtles, dugongs, dolphins, and whales. Also, a computer and videos for film showings are furnished the Information Center as in figure 3 and figure 4. Information concerning the biology, ecology, and conservation of marine wildlife; marine ecology; sustainable use of coastal and marine resources; and studies conducted by EMCOR are offered in the Information Center. Also, tourist destinations in Rayong province are provided as in figure 5.

CONCLUSION

The EMCOR Information Center embodies the interests of the local government of Rayong, non-government organizations, and other concerned citizens to support the National Government in its cause to promote conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources in the country.



Fig. 3. Location of molded statues in the Information Center



Fig. 4. Location of computer and videos in the Information Center



Fig. 5 Position and style of Information charts in the Information Center

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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