

<b>Title:</b>	Participation of Local Fishermen for Implementation of Coral Reef Management Plan at Mu Koh Chang, Thailand
<p><b>Abstract:</b>  <b>Max 250 words</b></p> <p>Your abstract <u>must</u> use Arial font size 11 and fit in this space</p> <p>Do <u>NOT</u> enter author and affiliation information on this document - you will be able to enter this information when submitting.</p>	<p>Mu Koh Chang is located in the eastern part of the Gulf of Thailand or the west coast of the South China Sea. There are about 60 Islands in the area with approximately 16 km<sup>2</sup> of coral reefs. It was declared as a special administrative zone for sustainable tourism development in 2002. Mu Koh Chang was selected as a demonstration site for coral reef subcomponent under the UNEP/GEF Project on Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand. The severe coral reef bleaching phenomenon in 1998 caused considerably coral reef degradation. Coral recovery has been hampered mainly by anthropogenic disturbances such as sedimentation from infrastructure development, impacts from expansion of tourism business and unskilled divers and impacts from illegal fishing. The present study provided the output and lessons learned from a project to support local fishermen for developing local guide tour centre, supporting alternative livelihood and encouraging participation of relevant activities. Co-ordination among key institutions is urgently needed to maintain actively participation of local communities for reducing pressure on natural coral reefs. Elimination of destructive fishing gears and methods are still the major concerns for coral reef management in the Gulf of Thailand.</p>