INVESTING IN BIODIVERSITY FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET: THE CASE OF KOH TAO ISLAND IN THAILAND

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‘FINANCE FOR NATURE’ - WHY?

New Deal for Nature: Investing for Biodiversity for people and planet
KEY FINDINGS: BIODIVERSITY EXPENDITURE IN THAILAND

Thailand’s Gross domestic product in 2015
USD 401 billion

While...
Average expenditure on biodiversity as percentage of GDP in 2015
0.08%

Sources include: World Bank, UNDP BIOFIN BER 2016

GDP = USD 455 billion (World Bank, 2017)
Translating Thailand’s 20-year National Strategy, especially on the sustainable utilization of natural resources as a foundation to green growth and inclusive development, into actual implementation with financial strategies with regard to the Integrated National Biodiversity Plan.
MOVING THE FRONTIER BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCE-WHERE POSSIBLE AND MEANINGFUL

Public finance cannot do it alone!

1. Mobilizing Resources
2. Delivering Better
3. Re-aligning existing resources
4. Preventing future costs
OVERVIEW OF TRENDS IN THE MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS IN THAILAND

Thailand has a coastline of 3,148 kilometers.

23 provinces with coastlines (Total 76 provinces)
- 17 on the Gulf side,
- 6 on the Andaman side.

Coastal and marine ecosystems:
- mangroves
- seagrass
- coral reefs
- beach forests
- islands ecosystems
THE CASE OF KOH TAO ISLAND IN THAILAND

Finance results:
- Mobilizing Resources
- Preventing future costs

User charge

- Top 10 World’s Best Learn-to-dive Destinations
- 300,000-500,000 visitors/year
- Located in the Gulf of Thailand, Pha Ngan District, Surat Thani Province.
- Total land area of 18.64 sq.km.
- 3 villages on the island.
- Not a Marine Protected Area, no current system for collecting entrance fees
INCREASING SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR CORAL REEF/SPECIES REHABILITATION AND MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION MANAGEMENT IN THE ISLAND OF KOH TAO

Institutionalization: Surat Thani Provincial Governor | Koh Tao Municipality | Save Koh Tao | Businesses | Department of Marine and Coastal Resources | Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation | Pollution Control Department | Department of Treasury | Royal Thai Navy | Marine Department | 4th Army Area Commander | BIOFIN Thailand
PUTTING THE FINANCE PLAN TO SOLUTION...

USD 1.5 million revenues from environmental management charges

(i) Conservation and restoration of coral reefs,

(ii) Reducing sources of land-based pollution and thus preventing any potential harm to coastal resources.
In order to address the finance gap, the biodiversity finance solution aims to create a mechanism— in the form of *Environmental Management Charge* to generate a steady flow of revenue that will be used primarily for the purpose of protecting and restoring the conditions of the island’s coral reefs which is a key source of revenue for the island’s tourism sector.

**Mobilizing Resources**

**Preventing future costs**

- **Restoration of coral reefs**
- **A comprehensive marine turtle conservation program**
- **Strengthening the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystem**
- **Reducing sources of land-based pollution and thus prevent any potential harm or damage to coastal resources**
SUSTAINABILITY...

- A self-financing mechanism for mobilising financial resources for conservation.
- Koh Tao municipality will be the champion of this project.
- The BIOFIN will replicate this experience in other municipalities with similar natural assets.
THANK YOU