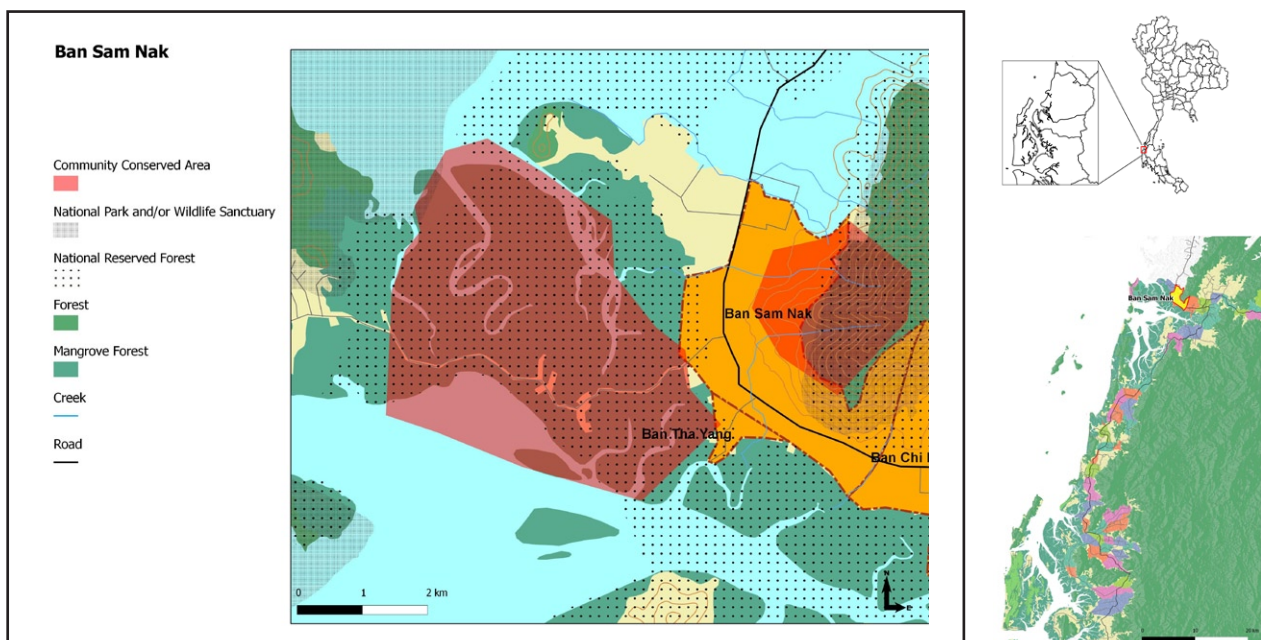


# Ban Sam Nak

## Conserving community mangroves in Kapoe estuary

March 2010



Ban Bang Sam Nak first started conserving mangrove area in Kapoe estuary in 2005, when they witnessed the devastation caused to their communities by the tsunami, and decided to work together to conserve this important and protective resource.

The mangrove area used by the community is about 9300 rai in size, sitting close to the Laem Now National Park (see Map 1). About 90% of the people (400 households or 1800 people) that use the mangrove resources are from Ban Sam Nak. The other 10% are from outside villages (including Ban Bang Baen, Ao Kuey, Muong Klong).

They have a Mangrove Conservation Committee which meets twice a year and is responsible for managing the mangroves. It is composed of representatives from all villages in the Muong Kloung District (Ban Sam Nak, Ban Tha Yang and Muang Kloung).

**Map 1. shows the community conserved areas, as well as protected areas under the National Park Act 1961, Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act 1992, and National Reserved Forest Act 1964.**

The Ban Sam Nak community also has six 'Activity Groups', each with 20 members. These groups meet regularly, and twice a year all six groups come together for a meeting. The groups are:

1. Crab Bank Group
2. Ao Kapoe Conservation/Fishing Group
3. Tha Hua None Mangrove Patrol
4. Ao Koi Local Fishing Group
5. Watershed Group – trying to establish a tourism site at Khao Phra Narai
6. Muslim Homestay Group

### Commonly-observed practices in the community

In Ban Sam Nak, there are no established 'rules' as such to manage the resource, but there are certain practices that Ban Sam Nak villagers generally abide by. These are:

- 1. Mangroves can only be cut for household use, not for selling.**
- 2. Fish cannot be caught using explosives and other destructive fishing techniques.**

It is the responsibility of all villagers to ensure that everyone is observing these practices. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) also provide assistance in marking the boundary of conservation zones, and in patrolling the area.

About 80% of Ban Sam Nak villagers actively participate in mangrove conservation activities. Activities include establishing seagrass and seashells, building 'fish homes' using cement piping, and mangrove plantation days. With help from IUCN, Ban Sam Nak are now working to document the management plan for their mangroves.

Ban Sam Nak also has a community education centre, where villagers and school groups can come to learn about the mangroves, shells and fish species in the area. Several years ago Ban Sam Nak worked with the Prince Mahidol University to do an assessment of the biodiversity of the mangroves. Ban Sam Nak now also works DMCR Mangrove Unit #9 on educational activities, and on seagrass and mangrove planting activities.



Mangrove rehabilitation. © IUCN/ Katie MILLER



Rangsiman Wanraman - Chair of Ban Sam nak Conservation Group. © IUCN



Under the reforestation project in Honour of His Majesty the King, 250 rai of mangrove forest were restored in Muang Kluang sub district. © IUCN/ Katie MILLER



Ban Sam Nak Community Centre.© IUCN/ Katie MILLER