Annual Report
on SDG14 Life Below Water

14.3 Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action

14.3.1 - Does your university as a body support and/or organize events aimed to promote conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers and marine resources?

Events Promoting the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Aquatic Resources Connecting Community Action, Creative Learning and Aquatic Conservation

Songkhla Lagoon connects aquatic biodiversity with the livelihoods, knowledge and culture of surrounding communities. Protecting this shared environment requires scientific understanding alongside opportunities for people to participate in conservation and recognize the value of aquatic resources. Thaksin University therefore organizes and supports events that bring aquatic learning and practical conservation into community and public life.

During 2025, the University worked with communities, schools and partner organizations through fish-habitat conservation activities, fish-printing workshops, youth camps, community learning events and outreach on invasive aquatic species. These activities offered complementary forms of participation: residents contributed directly to habitat conservation, children explored fish diversity through creative activities, and young people learned about ecological threats and appropriate reporting practices.

Community Participation in Fish-Habitat Conservation

On **28 May 2025**, Thaksin University participated in a community fish-house activity at **Ban Mai, Singhanakhon District, Songkhla Province**. The event brought university personnel and residents together around the practical task of providing aquatic shelter and supporting the community's conservation area.

The University contributed academic and technical information, explained construction methods and worked alongside community members. Residents contributed local knowledge, labour and practical experience. Working together created an opportunity to discuss why aquatic organisms need suitable habitats and how these areas relate to local fisheries. The event connected construction with shared responsibility for the site, helping participants understand that the continuing care of fish houses and conservation areas is part of the intervention.





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A further activity was the construction of **Fish House No. 10 on 11 November 2025 at Moo. 8 Ampoe Meaung, Songkhla Province** . The University worked with community members, Khao Rup Chang Town Municipality and Songkhla Eco-Friendly Fishing Promotion Association. A cage-type design was selected in response to shallow water and soft substrate conditions.

These events made habitat conservation tangible. Participants could contribute to the work, understand the reasons for the selected design and consider the responsibilities needed after construction.





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Using Fish Printing to Connect Art with Aquatic Diversity

Fish-printing, or *Gyotaku*, provided an accessible way to introduce aquatic diversity in school and community settings. The process encourages participants to observe fish closely before producing their own prints, creating opportunities to examine body shape, fins, scales and other external features.

On **19 January 2025**, the University supported a fish-printing activity at **Talat Tai Thun** with pupils from Benjama, Pattani. On **27 February 2025**, it contributed a fish-printing activity to the annual event at **Pak Phayun Phitthayakhan School**.

Guided demonstrations and practical participation connected the creative process with discussion of fisheries diversity, habitat and natural conservation. Learners could encounter fish as aquatic organisms with ecological relationships, alongside their familiar roles in food and community life. The University contributed facilitation and academic explanation, working with school and community organisers. The activities involved 65 Students. Completed prints provided visible outputs that participants could display and use to share their experience.



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Engaging Young People through Camps and Local Learning

The **Songkhla Lagoon Youth Camp, held on 9–10 April 2025**, provided an opportunity for young people to explore the lagoon environment through activity-based learning. The University delivered educational sessions, facilitated workshops and organised a hands-on fish-house construction activity, working alongside fisheries enforcement officers, local administrative organisations, schools and communities.

The camp brought together approximately **100 participants**, connecting conservation education with local environments and community experience. Activities focused on natural resources, aquatic conservation and local wisdom through practical workshops, experiential learning and community-based learning.

Other youth activities in Songkhla and Phatthalung included Songkhla Cultural Roots Youth Leadership Camp (ค่ายผู้นำเยาวชนร่วมรากวัฒนธรรมสงขลา) during 17-19 and 25-27 June and 25-27. These events extended opportunities for younger participants to encounter aquatic resources, ask questions and consider how their actions relate to environmental care.







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The Sonkhla Lagoon youth camp on 9–10 April 2025










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Bringing Aquatic Learning into Community Events

Talat Tai Thun and its community learning centre provided continuing settings for public engagement during 2025. Events and learning activities brought residents, schools and visitors into contact with the lagoon's aquatic resources and the community's conservation work.

Songkhla Lagoon Fish Bingo introduced participants to fish diversity through a game-based activity. The **Songkhla Lagoon Monopoly** game provided an additional route into learning about fish diversity, fish habitats and conservation. The University supported learning materials, activity organisation and facilitation, working with the market committee and community partners.

Approximately **450 participants** were reported for the community learning activities during the year. This figure describes participation in the wider learning programme; it is not added to individual event attendance where the records may overlap.

The University co-organised the **first Pak Phayun Festival** and shared knowledge through game-based learning, fish-printing (*Gyotaku*) workshops and cooking activities using resources from Songkhla Lagoon. These activities connected local biodiversity and food traditions with

practical learning about aquatic resources. Community records document a youth activity involving **50 participants** from Pak Phayun Phitthayakhan School, Matthayom Koh Mak School and Satsanupatham School. The aquatic conservation activities included **fish-house construction and aquatic animal conservation**, providing opportunities for young people to participate directly in caring for the lagoon's resources.

These community settings connect public learning with the surrounding fish houses, conservation area and lagoon-based livelihoods. They allow conservation messages to be encountered within a place where aquatic resources have visible social and economic significance.











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Raising Awareness of Invasive Aquatic Species

On **6 June 2025**, Thaksin University researchers delivered an educational activity on **blackchin tilapia** to **49 upper-secondary students at Matthayom Koh Mak School**, Pak Phayun District, Phatthalung Province. The activity was led by the Faculty of Technology and Community Development in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Digital Innovation.

The programme connected three topics: the biology and identifying characteristics of blackchin tilapia; its potential impacts on biodiversity, fisheries and communities; and approaches to prevention, surveillance and participation. It formed part of the development of a public knowledge package supported by the University's 2025 research fund.







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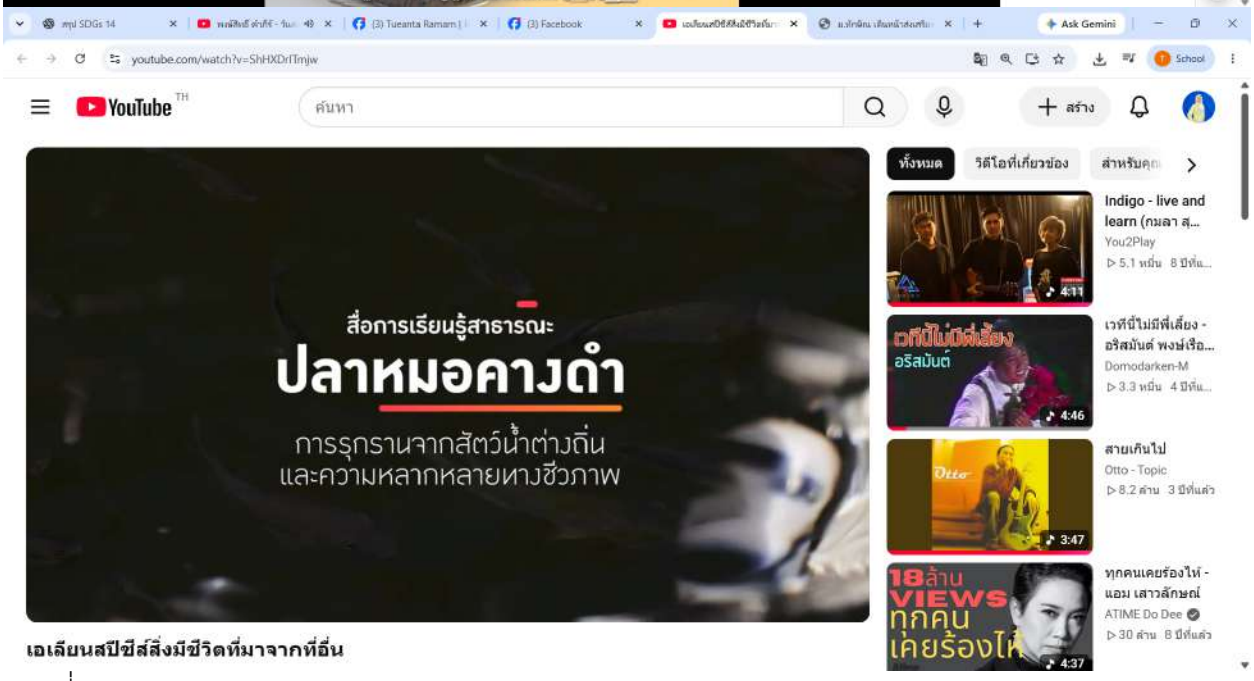
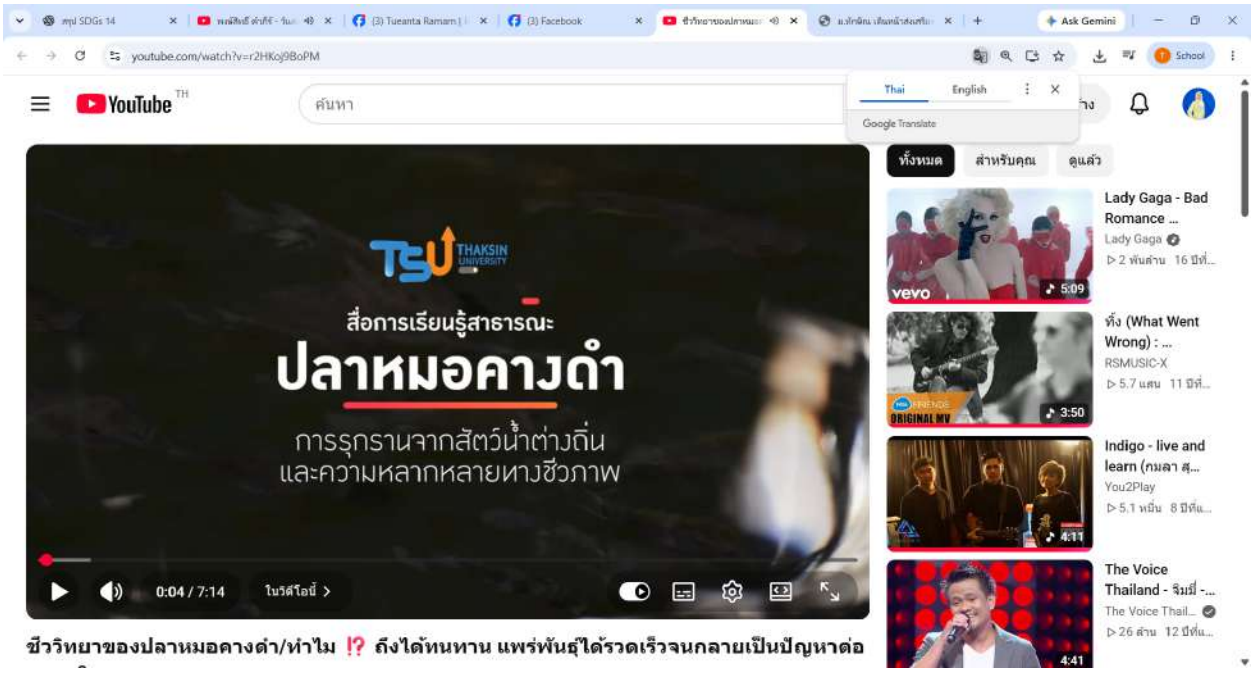


เอเลียนสปีชีส์สิ่งมีชีวิตที่มาจากที่อื่น

ตอนที่ 1

เอเลียนสปีชีส์ : สิ่งมีชีวิตที่มาจากที่อื่น (Alien species)

youtube.com/watch?si=ugOrLSxe2uNxr4yT&fbclid=IwY2xjawVJGZxleHRuA2FlbQIxMABwZG9mBWJyaWQRMU1TVndZeUl3aUlKRG81cjFzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEepGfUFbiQkGApYtelioFKX-aNRXDoSFZJo5GPDR-tpBwoQ0eSoO36PQ4MxwM_aem_DVz32x8fX7s0IjM6TDCtuA&v=ShHXDrITmjw&feature=youtu.be



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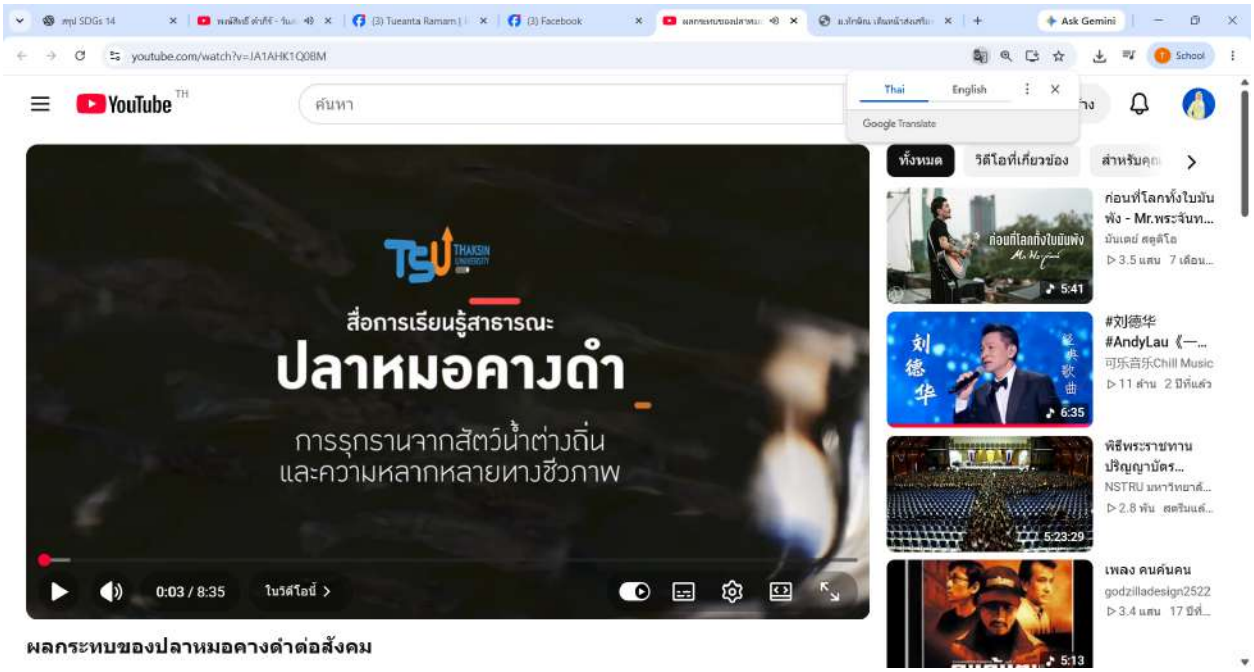

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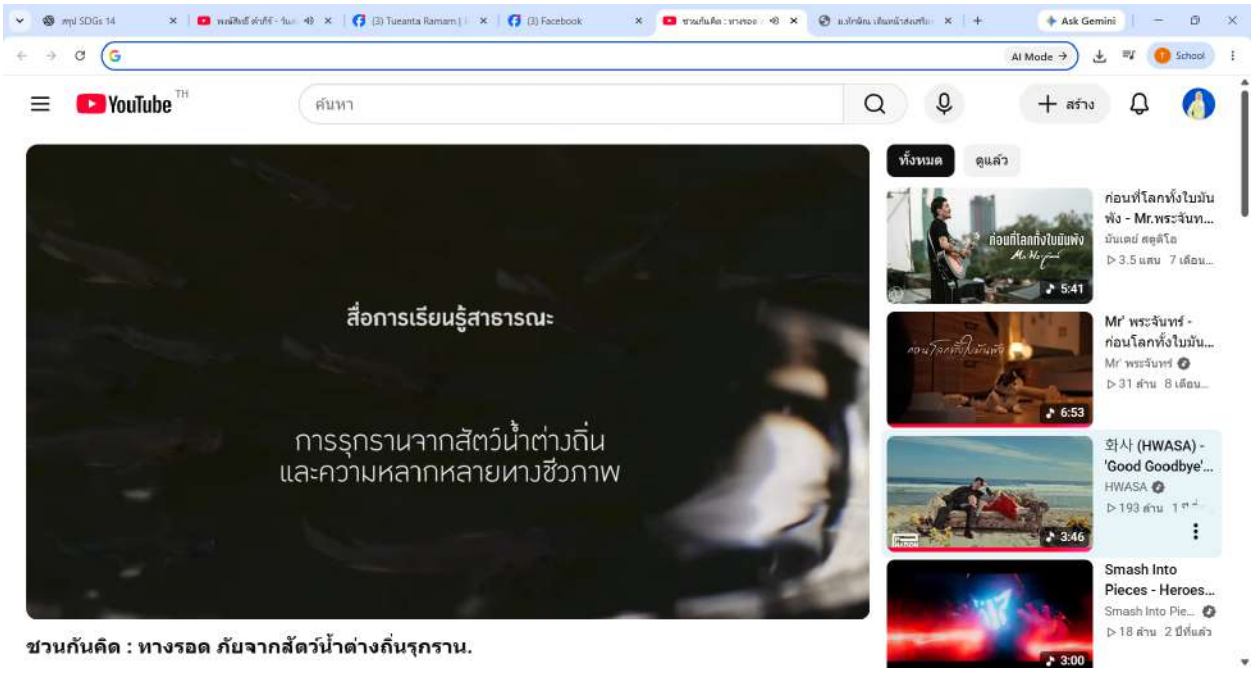

ชวนกันคิด : ทางรอด ภัยจากสัตว์น้ำต่างถิ่นรุกราน.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-mR-LQ_Mv8

The event translated academic knowledge into information suitable for a school audience. It gave students an opportunity to understand why an invasive aquatic species can become an environmental concern and how observations can be communicated for further assessment.

Community awareness activities also involved **Pak Pra and neighbouring communities around Thale Noi** on 19 December. These activities addressed species identification, potential impacts and reporting channels, complementing the University's coordination with fisheries authorities on suspected reports.

The outreach emphasised the importance of verification. Suspected fish reported through the community monitoring mechanism were investigated rather than treated as confirmed occurrences. This connects public awareness with responsible communication and technically supported responses.



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Connecting Event Participation with Continuing Conservation

The events form part of continuing relationships among the University, communities and schools. Fish-house activities connect participants with habitat protection; creative workshops

introduce aquatic diversity; youth camps provide opportunities for local environmental learning; and invasive-species outreach explains how people can recognise and report concerns.

The documented outputs include habitat work undertaken with communities, completed fish prints, delivery of learning activities and educational participation. Event programmes, photographs, participant records and learning materials provide evidence of the University's contribution.

Summary

In 2025, Thaksin University organised and supported events promoting aquatic conservation through community fish-house activities, *Gyotaku* workshops, youth camps, community learning and awareness outreach on blackchin tilapia. Activities included the Ban Mai fish-house event on 28 May, fish-printing sessions on 19 January and 27 February, the 9–10 April youth camp, and education for 49 students on 6 June. Continuing activities at Talat Tai Thun broadened opportunities for public participation. Together, these events connected scientific knowledge, local experience and practical engagement with the conservation and responsible use of aquatic resources.