Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026

Annual Report

on SDG14 Life Below Water

14.5 Maintaining a local ecosystem

14.5.4 - Does your university as a body collaborate with the local community, e.g. through partnerships, in efforts to maintain shared aquatic ecosystems?

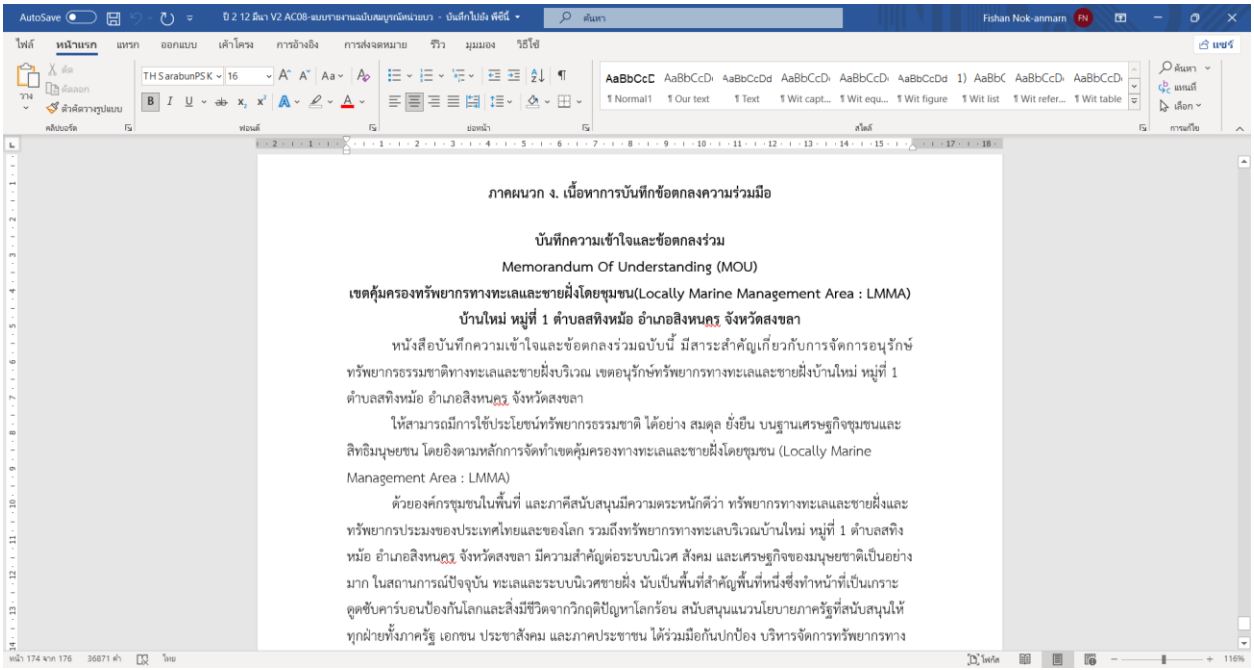
Collaboration with Local Communities to Maintain Shared Aquatic Ecosystems

From Community Knowledge to Shared Action across Songkhla and Phatthalung

Songkhla Lagoon connects communities through a shared aquatic environment. Its waters support fisheries, food production, tourism and local livelihoods, while environmental changes can affect people and habitats beyond the boundaries of an individual village. Maintaining this ecosystem therefore requires cooperation among communities, local authorities, fisheries and environmental agencies, and academic institutions.

Thaksin University contributes to this shared responsibility through continuing engagement with communities in Songkhla and Phatthalung. In 2025, collaboration connected scientific advice with local knowledge, practical habitat conservation, community agreements and environmental monitoring. The University's **Academic Service Unit for Natural Resource Management in the Songkhla Lagoon Area** provides a continuing point of contact through which communities can seek academic support, communicate concerns and participate in joint activities.

Partnership arrangements are documented through Locally Marine Management Area : LMMA on 10 September. Their practical contribution is demonstrated by the work undertaken together: assessing sites, constructing aquatic life shelters, caring for conservation areas, monitoring aquatic conditions and coordinating responses to emerging concerns.



ภาคผนวก ง. เนื้อหาการบันทึกข้อตกลงความร่วมมือ

บันทึกความเข้าใจและข้อตกลงร่วม

Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU)

เขตคุ้มครองทรัพยากรทางทะเลและชายฝั่งโดยชุมชน(Locally Marine Management Area : LMMA)

บ้านใหม่ หมู่ที่ 1 ตำบลสทิงหม้อ อำเภอสิงหนคร จังหวัดสงขลา

หนังสือบันทึกความเข้าใจและข้อตกลงร่วมฉบับนี้ มีสาระสำคัญเกี่ยวกับการจัดการอนุรักษ์ทรัพยากรธรรมชาติทางทะเลและชายฝั่งบริเวณ เขตอนุรักษ์ทรัพยากรทางทะเลและชายฝั่งบ้านใหม่ หมู่ที่ 1 ตำบลสทิงหม้อ อำเภอสิงหนคร จังหวัดสงขลา

ให้สามารถมีการใช้ประโยชน์ทรัพยากรธรรมชาติ ได้อย่าง สมดุล ยั่งยืน บนฐานเศรษฐกิจชุมชนและสิทธิมนุษยชน โดยอิงตามหลักการจัดทำเขตคุ้มครองทางทะเลและชายฝั่งโดยชุมชน (Locally Marine Management Area : LMMA)

ด้วยองค์กรชุมชนในพื้นที่ และภาคีสนับสนุนมีความตระหนักดีว่า ทรัพยากรทางทะเลและชายฝั่งและทรัพยากรประมงของประเทศไทยและของโลก รวมถึงทรัพยากรทางทะเลบริเวณบ้านใหม่ หมู่ที่ 1 ตำบลสทิงหม้อ อำเภอสิงหนคร จังหวัดสงขลา มีความสำคัญต่อระบบนิเวศ สังคม และเศรษฐกิจของมนุษยชาติเป็นอย่างมาก ในสถานการณ์ปัจจุบัน ทะเลและระบบนิเวศชายฝั่ง นับเป็นพื้นที่สำคัญพื้นที่หนึ่งซึ่งทำหน้าที่เป็นเกราะดูดซับคาร์บอนป้องกันโลกและสิ่งมีชีวิตจากวิกฤติปัญหาโลกร้อน สนับสนุนแนวนโยบายภาครัฐที่สนับสนุนให้ทุกฝ่ายทั้งภาครัฐ เอกชน ประชาสังคม และภาคประชาชน ได้ร่วมมือกันปกป้อง บริหารจัดการทรัพยากรทาง





Signing Ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Thaksin University's Academic Service Unit for Natural Resource Management in the Songkhla Lagoon Area and Partner Organisations on Natural Resource Conservation and Management.

Sharing Decisions and Responsibilities in Habitat Conservation

The University's fish-house work creates opportunities for communities and partner organisations to participate from planning through implementation. Residents contribute knowledge of local water conditions, fishing grounds and aquatic resources. University staff provide information, explain construction methods and work alongside community members. Partner organisations contribute funding and other support needed to carry out the activities.

The selection of fish-house designs reflects the characteristics of each site. During 2025, the construction of **Fish House No. 10 at Moo. 8 , Meuang Distric, Songkhla Province** used a cage-type design suited to shallow water and a soft substrate. The University provided technical information, demonstrated the construction process and participated in the work. Community members undertook construction, while partner organisations supported the activity financially.

This division of responsibilities brings together academic expertise, community participation and institutional resources. It also makes the intervention a shared undertaking, with local involvement extending to the observation and assessment of the area after construction.



Public evidence: https://www.tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=5616



Public evidence:

https://www.facebook.com/6 1 5 6 0 2 8 9 2 6 1 6 6 5 / posts/-%E0%B8%9A%E0%B9%89%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%99%E0%B8%9B%E0%B8%A5%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%AB%E0%B8%A1%E0%B8%B2%E0%B8%A2%E0%B9%80%E0%B8%A5%E0%B8%82-10

Continuing Collaboration at Ban Mai

At Ban Mai in Songkhla, collaboration connects fish houses and a conservation area with community rules and environmental observation. The University supports residents with academic information, practical instruction and participation in field activities. Community members contribute labour to fish-house construction and take part in assessing the outcomes.

Water quality and fish surveys continued from earlier work. The information provides a record of local aquatic conditions and a basis for investigating problems if water quality deteriorates. The University contributes technical support and interpretation, while community members bring observations from their regular use of the area.

This continuing relationship enables information to move in both directions. University knowledge supports field activities, while community experience helps identify relevant questions and conditions requiring attention. Monitoring therefore becomes part of the partnership's practical work in caring for the conservation area. The collaboration also supports efforts to obtain wider recognition of Ban Mai's community resource-use rules. Residents and relevant organizations participated in meetings and submitted the rules for consideration. The status within the reporting year was during process. These activities demonstrate how community management priorities are communicated to responsible organizations through a participatory process.





Public evidence:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10229228627883920&set=pcb.10229228658564687&locale=th_TH

Connecting Community Priorities with Provincial Planning

In Phatthalung, the partnership brings together the **Phatthalung Provincial Administrative Organization**, representatives of the **Department of Marine and Coastal Resources**, Thale noid non-hunting area, the **Thai Sea Watch Association**, fisheries and environmental offices, participating communities and Thaksin University.

The partners contribute complementary capacities. The University provides academic information, supports activity design and the development of community rules, and participates in follow-up. Communities contribute their priorities and knowledge through participation in planning and implementation. The Provincial Administrative Organization provides budget support, connecting local conservation activities with provincial environmental and natural resource planning.

This cooperation connects local participation with resources and planning beyond the individual community. It provides a practical mechanism through which community conservation priorities can receive technical and financial support.











Public evidence:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=740603104926066&set=pcb.740604181592625

Meeting to establish a fishing network in SongkhlaLagoon, 2nd meeting.





A Small-Scale Fisheries Network Forum was held on April 24, 2025, bringing together 30 participants to exchange knowledge and perspectives on overfishing, illegal fishing, and destructive fishing practices. The forum provided an opportunity for local fishers and stakeholders to discuss challenges and promote sustainable fisheries management and the conservation of aquatic resources.

Public evidence:

https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10230417446443641&set=pcb.10230417449443716&locale=th_TH

https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10230417448363689&set=pcb.10230417449443716&locale=th_TH

Responding Together to Suspected Invasive Fish

The partnership also provides a route for communities to raise ecological concerns and obtain technical assistance. In 2025, residents reported fish suspected to be blackchin tilapia. The University coordinated the verification process with the **Phatthalung Provincial Fisheries Office**, contributing species identification support and communication with the communities.

The three suspected reports documented in the accompanying monitoring information were investigated, and the fish concerned were not identified as blackchin tilapia. Related activities included investigation, awareness raising and knowledge sharing on identification and reporting. No further suspected cases were reported during the subsequent three-month follow-up period. This describes the reports received during that period; continued observation remains important because an absence of reports does not establish the absence of the species.

The cases demonstrate a functioning collaborative process: community members communicated observations, the University helped coordinate technical attention, and the responsible fisheries organisation participated in investigation. This relationship enables concerns to be examined rather than left unresolved or treated as confirmed without verification.



https://www.tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=5209



Public evidence: https://www.tsu.ac.th/home/details.php?id=5209

Broadening Participation through Talat Tai Thun

Collaboration at **Talat Tai Thun** and the community learning centre creates opportunities for participation beyond fisheries and conservation groups. The University works with community organisers to connect aquatic learning, waste management and conservation-oriented tourism.

During 2025, the University supported learning materials, organised activities and contributed facilitators. Community partners managed the setting and participated in delivering activities, including **Songkhla Lagoon Fish Bingo** and the **Songkhla Lagoon Monopoly** game.

These recurring activities bring schools, families and visitors into contact with the lagoon's aquatic resources and the people who care for them.

The market committee and vendors also share responsibilities for waste management. Practices include the use of natural-material packaging, reusable items, collective waste collection and separation of recoverable materials. The University supports this work through training on waste separation, collection and environmentally friendly packaging.

This cooperation links the use of a waterside community space with its continuing care. It also sustains relationships through activities that are relevant to community livelihoods, education and environmental management.









Public evidence:
https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=122155857956456749&set=pcb.122155861580456749&locale=th_T

Maintaining Cooperation through Networks and Follow-up

Fisheries network meetings and joint field activities provide opportunities to discuss progress and issues across participating communities. The University and partners use these settings to exchange experience, consider community concerns and identify follow-up responsibilities. Evidence of collaboration includes agreements, meeting records, activity reports, photographs and environmental survey records. Together, these materials show how partners contributed, what they undertook jointly and how the relationship continued beyond individual events.












Meeting to establish a fishing network in SongkhlaLagoon, 3rd meeting.

Public evidence:

https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10229047889116973&set=pcb.10229047905037371&locale=th_TH

https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10229047890437006&set=pcb.10229047905037371&locale=th_TH



Signing of agreements between agencies carrying out conservation activities in Songkhla Lagoon.

Public evidence:
https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1266015835541256&set=pcb.1266037008872472&locale=th_TH

Summary

In 2025, Thaksin University collaborated with communities and partner organisations in Songkhla and Phatthalung to maintain the shared aquatic ecosystems of Songkhla Lagoon. Joint work included site-appropriate fish houses, conservation areas, community agreements, continuing

environmental surveys and verification of suspected invasive fish. Provincial planning and funding supported activities in six communities, while collaboration at Talat Tai Thun extended participation through learning and waste management. These partnerships connect local knowledge, university expertise and institutional resources with continuing, shared care of the aquatic environment.