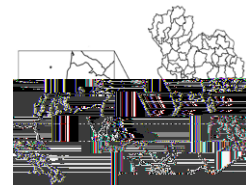
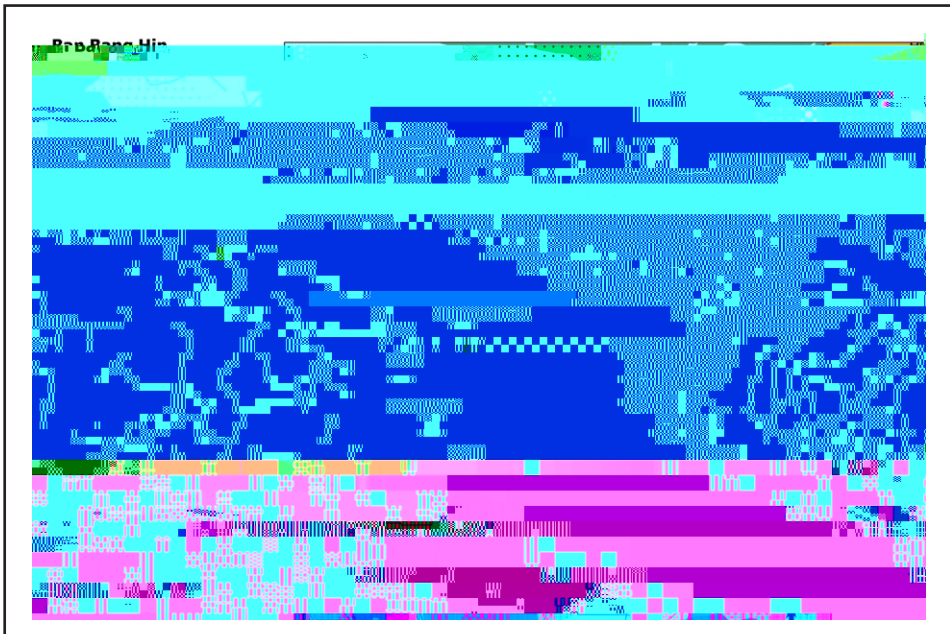


Ban Bang Hin

Conserving community seashells in the Kapoe estuary

March 2010



In early 2008 the villagers of Ban Bang Hin started to notice declining numbers of seashells in their area. In January 2009 they were getting 10 tonnes a day of seashells, but these catches declined very rapidly in the months February to May.

So in April 2009 Ban Bang Hin started a seashell conservation zone. The seashell conservation zone is an area of 5 rai, as shown on Map 1. It sits within a 1000 rai area of mangroves that the community also accesses and uses. There are about 500 households that use the 1000 rai area of mangroves, including people from Ban Chi Mee, Muong Kluong, Ban Bang Hin, Ban Bang Bom, Ban Bang Mun, and Ban Bang Na. About 100 of these households are from Ban Bang Hin.

Map 1. shows the seashell conservation zone, and protected areas under the National Park Act 1961, Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act 1992, and National Reserved Forest Act 1964.

The resources in the area that are unique to the Ban Bang Hin are seashells and oysters – in fact it is the biggest seashell resource in the area. There are two types of seashell: white shell and sweet shell (*Meretrix Venus* and *Tapes* sp.). Depending on the size and species, seashells sell for approximately 10 baht/kilo, usually to middlemen who then sell them on to restaurants in Phuket.

COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS IN RANONG AND