



Ka Poe Watershed, Ranong

The Ka Poe watershed is an area of high biodiversity and natural resource value. The watershed encompasses the Na Ca and Ka Poe Rivers, which flow from the mountains of the Ranong Province into the Ka Poe estuary.

Na Ca River is located in Na Ca Sub-district of Suk Sam Ran District. The river is home to a rare and endemic species – the Na Ca Water Lily. This fresh-water plant has unusually long leaves and delicate white flowers that bloom from October to December. Locals have been actively conserving the water lily for over 10 years, but ongoing threats include commercial collection, habitat loss due to river excavation and changing land-use patterns, and a lack of government legislation to protect the water lily.

Ban Na Watershed is located along the upper part of Ka Poe River in the sub-districts of Ban Na, Chiew Leang and Ka Poe. The *watershed* has high ecosystem value, and contains pristine forest habitat, an abundance of wildlife and endangered species, hot springs, and mountains. Protected areas in the *watershed* are



divided between three Wildlife Sanctuaries, with headquarters in different provinces (Kuan Mae Yai Mon in Chum Porn, Klong Na Ca in Ranong, and Klong Yan in Surat Thani). The Ka Poe River

flows from the Ban Na *Watershed* into Ka Poe estuary, another area of ecological significance.

Ka Poe Estuary is the north Andaman Coast's biggest estuary, and is home to numerous rare and migratory bird species, extensive mangrove forests and seagrass beds, and concentrations of Venus shell and mud crab. The estuary has been an internationally-recognized Ramsar wetlands site since 2002, and is adjacent to Laem Son National Park. A number of traditional fishing communities surround the estuary and depend on it for their livelihood. Threats to Ka Poe Estuary include unsustainable fishing practices, pollution from shrimp farms, mangrove clearing by businessmen, and sedimentation from up-stream development.

Bang Lam Poo village is located in Ka Poe District. The village is the poorest in the BMZ project's target area, and many inhabitants are "Stateless" (lack Thai citizenship). Income is most commonly generated from day labour in local plantations, shrimp farms, and nypa palm collection. Terrestrial forests around the village are being cleared at an increasing rate for conversion to rubber and palm oil plantations.

Threats

- Undefined forest- boundaries and encroachment for commercial crops
- Erosion and sedimentation including river bank erosion
- Loss of endemic Water Lily habitat, lack of access to Nypa palm, Over collecting of Venus shell
- Degradation of mangrove forests
- Pollution from up stream development and shrimp farms
- Deceasing size of sea grass beds
- Unprotected endangered and migratory bird populations
- Poverty and landless/stateless people

Goals

1. Protect/preserve endemic species and areas of high ecosystem value.
2. Restore damaged ecosystems/ degraded habitats.
3. Identify, develop, and implement sustainable management opportunities (i.e. income generation through ecotourism for women, stateless- and the poorest segment of the population).

