



Developing Lampi Marine National Park as an Ecotourism Role Model

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&

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PART I: BACKGROUND

Ms Tania miorin

OIKOS in Myanmar

- ✓ Oikos is a **non-profit organisation**
- ✓ Operating in Myanmar since 2006, with the aim of promoting responsible management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation
- ✓ Working in Lampi MNP since 2010 in collaboration with the Forest Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
- ✓ Objective: to strengthen conservation and overall management of Lampi MNP

Myanmar & Regional Context

National

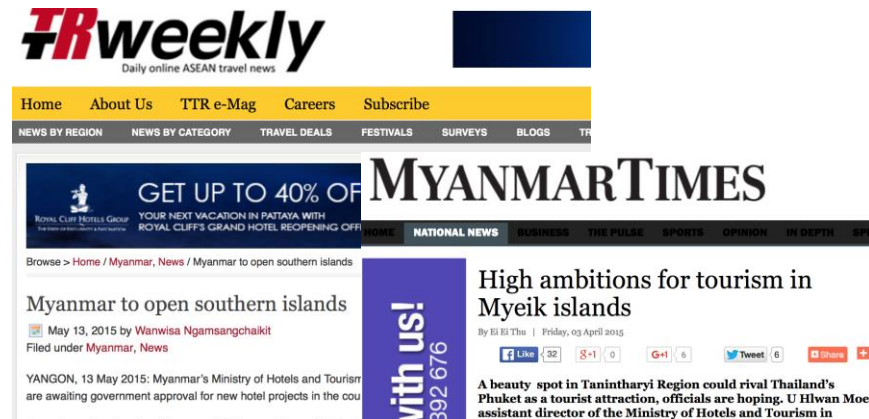
- Sweeping political & economic reforms
- Country open for investment
- Tourism identified as key economic pillar – but very limited experience by public & private sector
- 2013-2018 Tourism Master Plan launched at World Economic Forum in Myanmar

Myeik Archipelago

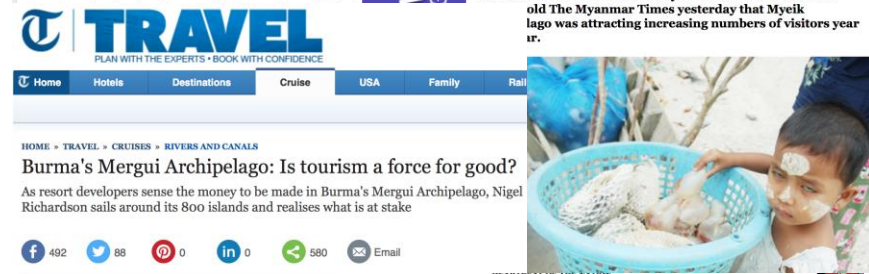
- 800 islands of Myeik Archipelago
- World's largest undocumented archipelago – high & unique biodiversity, increasingly threatened by extractive activities
- 2014/15 high interest to lease islands for tourism – high end resorts
- Multiple access, communication, infrastructure & human resource challenges !!



The screenshot displays two news articles from TRweekly. The top article, titled "Myanmar to open southern islands" (dated May 13, 2015), reports that the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is awaiting approval for new hotel projects in the southern islands. The bottom article, titled "Burma's Mergui Archipelago: Is tourism a force for good?", discusses the potential of the archipelago as a resort destination, mentioning a cruise by Nigel Richardson. The website also features a "TRweekly" logo, navigation menus, and social media sharing options.



The screenshot shows a news article on MYANMARTIMES titled "High ambitions for tourism in Myeik islands" (dated Friday, 03 April 2015). The article mentions that a beauty spot in the Tanintharyi Region could rival Thailand's Phuket as a tourist attraction. It also notes that the Myeik lagoon was attracting increasing numbers of visitors in the previous year. The website includes a navigation bar, a search bar, and social media sharing icons.



The screenshot displays a news article on TRAVEL titled "Burma's Mergui Archipelago: Is tourism a force for good?". The article discusses the potential of the archipelago as a resort destination, mentioning a cruise by Nigel Richardson. The website features a navigation bar, a search bar, and social media sharing options.

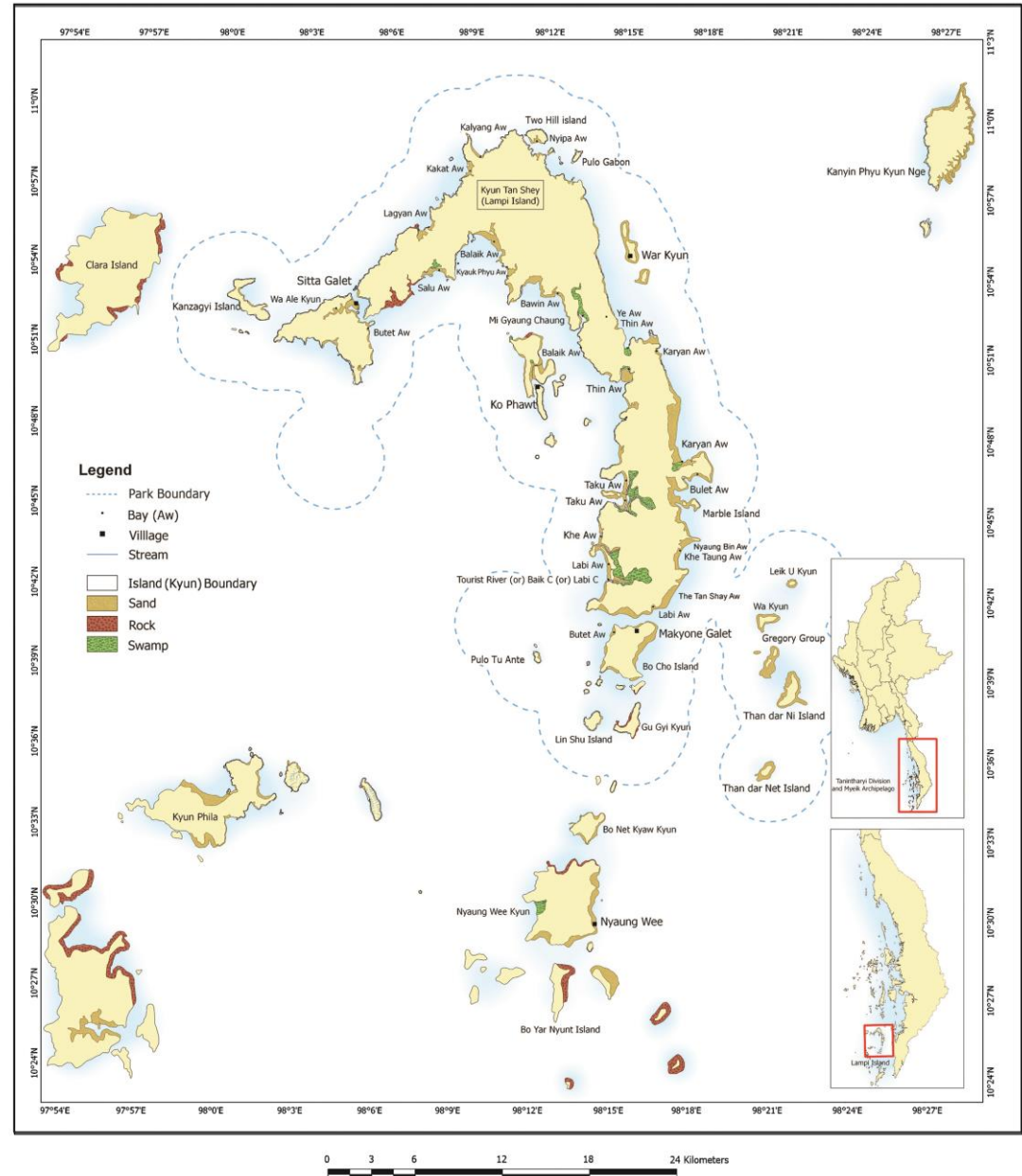


The screenshot shows a news article on MYANMARTIMES titled "'Phuket of Myanmar' seeks MIC approval" (dated Tuesday, 12 May 2015). The article reports that the US\$1.2 billion LuxDream Island project is branded "the next Phuket" and will feature a high-end marina, luxury hotels, a theme park, and a casino. The website includes a navigation bar, a search bar, and social media sharing icons.

Lampi MNP: key info

- ✓ Located in Boke Pyin Township, Taninthary Region, Myeik Archipelago
- ✓ **Myanmar's first & only Marine NP**
- ✓ Gazetted in 1996 ("*Paper Park*" until 2013)
- ✓ Area of > 205 km² (Lampi Island plus 20 smaller islands)
- ✓ ASEAN Heritage Park 2003
- ✓ Important Bird Area 2004
- ✓ LMNP 2014-18 General Management Plan approved
- ✓ LMNP 2015-18 Ecotourism Management Plan approved

LAMPI Marine National Park



Lampi MNP: habitat & key natural resources

- ✓ High biodiversity and ecological importance (*largely undocumented*)
- ✓ **key habitats:** tropical evergreen forest, mangrove forest, beach and dune forest, coral reef, sea grass beds
- ✓ **Key terrestrial & marine resources:** hornbills, sea turtles, dugong, sunda pangolin, northern pig-tailed macaque, lesser mouse deer**over 1,000 species recorded**



Lampi MNP: local community

- ✓ 5 settlements
- ✓ 3,000 people from different Ethnic groups/ extremely heterogeneous
- ✓ majority migrated from main land over 20 years ago
- ✓ 'Mother Land' of the **Moken** (160 people) -> **spiritual value of the park**
- ✓ Community dependent on coastal resources livelihood
- ✓ Main land use/human activities: fisheries, hunting, logging, plantation and local businesses



Lampi MNP: access & tourism

Access: isolated place, limited communication, based on Travel Authorization

Tourism:

- ✓ since 1997 open to international tourists
- ✓ limited to the live-aboard cruises

(no CBT accommodation allowed yet, one high-end Resort recently approved)

- ✓ In the recent years: > 1,400 tourists /year inside the Park
- ✓ Until 2015: No engagement of community in tourism/no financial benefit



Project Objectives

- ❖ Promote Park's conservation through:
 - ✓ Reducing & eliminating illegal activities (logging, dynamite & over-fishing, hunting)
 - ✓ Increase local community awareness & participation in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources
 - ✓ Promoting sustainable livelihoods (*i.e Ecotourism & CBT*)

*The Power & Value of the Lampi Story
is Critical !!*



Key Points to Consider Regarding Ecotourism

- On-going environmentally destructive illegal activities, & uncontrolled infrastructure development
- A lack of social cohesion among Park residents
- Yacht tourism growing but with few community benefits
- Tourism yet to support park conservation **(no entry fee, no tourist service fees direct toward park conservation and community projects)**
- High-end resort approved for Wa Ale island, in the Park
- Local people need training and skill sets to be involved and benefit from ecotourism **(i.e English, Hospitality, Tour Guiding, Handicraft, tourism industry..)**
- If local community benefits from ecotourism, they will help “police” and report illegal activity **(i.e sea turtles hatchery, coral protection)**
- If tourism is to become an incentive to stop destructive use, tourism benefits must outweigh incomes from extractive activities



Part II: ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES

Dr Paul rogers

Strategic Programmes

1. Strengthen stakeholder coordination and management
2. Strengthen & diversify product range
3. Develop conservation linkages & monitoring protocols
4. Develop marketing & interpretation



Lampi CBT Committee

- Lampi CBT Committee established
- Training & awareness-raising programme being implemented
- 6-month work plans prepared
- CBT study tours

Lampi MNP Ecotourism Committee

- District-level: government, private sector & Lampi CBT Committee
- Stakeholder coordination / coordinate activities
- 2-3 meetings per year



What has been achieved so far?

Waste Management

- Waste management system in place and run by the community
 - Families & shops pay a monthly waste collection fees
 - Dump sites/land fills were identified and created
 - Clean Up Days regularly organized by youth and community members



What has been achieved so far?

Training & Education

- English training for community members
- Village Tour Guiding Training (**village tour, Moken tour, 4 jungle trails**)
- Pilot Collaboration with Tourism Sector/Yachting tours involving local youth as Village Tour Guide (**boat moorings being developed with private sector**)
- Kayaks purchased for guided tours of mangrove river
- Handicraft products & shop opened (**linked to waste-management project**)



Visitor Centre

- ✓ Visitor Centre:
multifunctional-
educational hall (for
exhibition of
educational panels,
workshops,
trainings..)
- ✓ **Official Opening**
8th Dec 2016 by H.E
Minister for Natural
Resources and
Environmental
Conservation &
Italian Ambassador



Education Panels

Contents:

- ✓ Lampi MNP Overview
- ✓ Moken
- ✓ Mangroves
- ✓ Sea Turtles
- ✓ Birds
- ✓ Hornbill

LAMPI MANGROVES

Lampi Marine National Park has one of the highest diversities of mangrove species on the planet, with 63 species of 'true' and 'associate' mangroves recorded in the Park.

The species present in Lampi can be divided into two community types: the *Rhizophora apiculata* community and the *Brauguiera cylindrica* community. Dominant species are *Rhizophora apiculata* and *Rhizophora mucronata*.

Four of the mangrove species recorded in the park are listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species: *Sonneratia griffithii*, *Heritiera fomes*, *Aegialitis rotundifolia* and *Broussonetia tosa*.

WHAT IS A MANGROVE?

Mangroves are trees or large shrubs which normally grow in intertidal zones, such as river's delta and estuaries, coastal lagoons and open coastlines, where fresh waters mix with ocean water resulting in a unique ecosystem. These habitats are characterised by harsh environmental conditions: they are subject to regular flooding, variable salinity, droughts, powerful storms and heavy rains during the monsoon season. To be able to survive in such a changing environment, mangroves have evolved peculiar ecological adaptations.

Some species can tolerate very high salt concentrations. Others block the salt by depositing it in the bark of stems and roots, dumping it in their senescent leaves or by actively secreting it as crystals from the leaves.

Many mangrove species have developed aerial roots to transport oxygen in the waterlogged and anaerobic environment they occupy.

THE TOURIST RIVER

One of Lampi's most unique places is a mangrove river known as the Tourist River. Its extensive beaches and dune trees provide a continuous border to the mangrove and evergreen forests creating a unique panoramic beauty.

You can spot **flocks of birds** such as the Pacific Reef egret (1) (*Ardeotis sacra*), the Beach Thick-knee (2) (*Icthyophaga nigrostris*), the Malaysian Plover (3) (*Charadrius persicus*) and the Brown-winged Kingfisher (4) (*Ptilinopus amauropetera*), that add bright colors to the magnificent natural picture.

If you are lucky, you might spot the Reticulated Python (8) (*Malayopython reticulatus*) hanging from a branch.

The mangrove river is also habitat for the **mudskipper fish** (5) (*Pteropichthys spp.*), an amphibious fish that can use its pectoral fins to walk on land; for many species of crabs, among which the edible Giant Mud Crab (6) (*Scylla serrata*) and the Sand-bubbler Crab (7) (*Scopimera gibbosa*). The river also plays a crucial role as nurseries for coral reef fish (9).

PRESENTING MANGROVES IS VERY IMPORTANT!

We need mangrove ecosystems because:

- They conserve a high biological diversity, both in flora and fauna.
- They minimise the effects of extreme natural events such as cyclones and tsunamis.
- They provide protection against coastal erosion.
- They offer water regulation service as they regulate the flow and purification of water.
- They serve as a substantial store of belowground carbon, thus mitigating climate change.

www.lampipark.org

SEA TURTLES

Among the seven living species of sea turtles in the world, 5 are known to live in Myanmar. Three of these sea turtle species could nest in the Lampi Marine National Park, based on beach characteristics:

Other sea turtles species come to Lampi for feeding purposes:

MEET THE SEA TURTLE!

Sea turtles differ in size, shape, colour and diet.

- The Olive Ridley Turtle usually weighs less than 100lbs, while the Leatherback Turtle's weight ranges from 650 to 1,300lbs.
- The upper shell (carapace) of a sea turtle differs in length, colour, shape and arrangement of scales.
- Sea turtles do not have teeth, but their jaws have modified "beaks" suited to their diet and suitable within species: herbivore species (Green Turtle) eat mainly sea grass and algae; carnivore species (Olive Ridley Turtle, Loggerhead Turtle) have diets of lobster, crabs, tunicates, mollusks and fish. More specialist species like the Hawksbill Turtle, eat mostly sponges and invertebrates, and the Leatherback Turtle has a particular taste for jellyfish.
- Their streamlined bodies and large flippers make them remarkably adapted to life at sea. Sea turtles are strong swimmers. The cruising speed for Green Turtles is about 0.9 to 1.4 mph. Leatherbacks have been recorded at speeds of 0.9 to 3.8 mph. Sea turtles are also excellent divers. Leatherbacks routinely dive more than 1,000 ft. They may reach depths of more than 3,900 ft seeking jellyfish for prey.
- Only females come ashore to nest; males rarely return to land after crawling into the sea as hatchlings. Genetic studies provide convincing evidence that the breeding adult sea turtles return to their region of birth after many years. Sea Turtles live very long lives: sexual maturity may range from as early as fifteen years in Hawksbills to 12-30 years in Loggerheads to 20-50 years in Green Sea Turtles. Most females nest at least twice during each mating/migration season; some may nest up to ten times in a season. Except for the Olive Ridley Turtle, females will rarely nest in consecutive years, typically skipping one or two years before returning.

SEA TURTLES' ROLE IN OCEAN ECOSYSTEMS

- They maintain sea grass beds. When Green Turtles graze, they help to preserve the health of seagrass blades. Without constant grazing the seagrasses would overgrow, shade the bottom of the sea bed and risk its decomposition. Sea grass beds are fundamental feeding and developmental grounds for many species of fish, shellfish and crustaceans.
- They improve the diversity of the reef community. Hawksbill Turtles forage for a variety of marine sponges. By removing sponges from reefs, Hawksbills allow other species, such as coral, to colonise and grow. Without turtles, sponges are likely to dominate reef communities, modifying the structure of coral reef ecosystems.
- They provide nutrients to beach and dune ecosystems. Sea turtles use beaches and the lower dunes to nest and lay their eggs. All its unattended nests, eggs and trapped hatchlings are very good sources of nutrients for the dune vegetation.
- They control the jellyfish population. Leatherback Turtles get their nutritional needs from jellyfish. As significant consumers of jellyfish, they play a pivotal ecological role as top jellyfish predator and controller.
- They are an important part of the food web. Sea turtles all produce large numbers of offspring which are a normal and important part of marine food webs with birds, crabs and all sorts of fish benefiting tremendously.

SEA TURTLES ARE AT RISK!

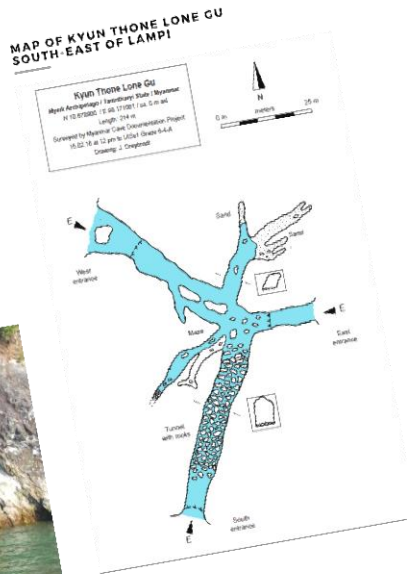
Death and injury from commercial fishing, egg harvest, loss of suitable habitat, pollution and climate change are the main human-caused threats pushing sea turtles towards extinction worldwide. In Lampi the main threats are the direct removal of sea turtles from their habitats by fishermen and local community members for self-consumption (people kill sea turtles and consume their eggs for food) and commercial income, impact from fishing equipment (nets and trawls) and habitat destruction.

www.lampipark.org

- ✓ 20 panels inside Visitor Centre
- ✓ 10 panels around the Park including 5 centred around the Moken

GuideBook (80 pages)

- ❑ Contents: Natural Resources; Human History, Conservation Management; & Tourism (25 separate topics)
- ❑ Collaboration with scientists, local and international universities, other NGOs, tourism consultants and the private sector
- ❑ 10,000 copies



INSIDE THE CAVES

The caves in vicinity of Lampi host several sea shore caves. They are for used in Mesozoic Granitic Quarzite with pale light oriented along the major bedding lines. This is surprising, since caves are mostly known from the Mesozoic and Quaternary in the Myittha Archipelago. A cave close to visit is Kyun Thone Lone Gu located at the tiny island just 20 meters of boat drive from Makure Gule, in south-west direction. It consists of narrow passage of 214 m length (see figure 2) has a beautiful variety of water lily, bamboo, water chamber and sandy beach. Access is by snorkeling into one of the more entrances. Most sea shore caves have single chambers or passages of 20-40 meters. They develop by combination of weathering and dissolution and

abruptly. Such chambers are protected from wind and rain and provide therefore a shelter for hot colonies of biogenic organisms. During a joint study of the University of Yunnan in the surroundings of 2000 meters eight different but similar caves related rock types and fauna has been identified. The water study of the main objective of the Myanmar Cave Documental Project, which is coordinated by the Myittha Archipelago. The study consists of some 100 caves and groups who are organized in Myittha Cave Society. After a first expedition in 2016, several expeditions are planned for the coming years. Of special interest are Archipelago caves. These now have related fauna due to the influence of saline water with low oxygenated pools.

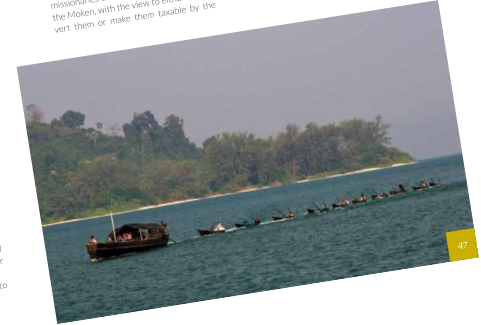


MOKEN ORIGINS

The Moken, Sea Nomads of the Myittha Archipelago, are the northernmost group of the Austronesian migration, probably beginning from Taiwan around 5000 B.C. and colonizing an area of several million square kilometres. We can trace the Moken departure from the Riau-Lingga Archipelago (Indonesia), back to approximately the 16th century. From there immediately by separating from the dominant 'Malay' group becoming 'Proto-Malays', which includes all the nomads of the insular archipelago. They created a large network from the Riau to the Malay Archipelago, where they have founded. A small network of groups has developed themselves and settling in empowering themselves and islands. Centuries of interaction with other populations provided the Moken with a stock of cultural and technical knowledge (tendencies). The archipelagic environment offered a relative tranquility from the mainland civilisations, so the Moken could test some of these 'talents'. The Moken culture blossomed with its flagship item, the kabang boat, representing the emergence of a society and of the lobang spirit poles. It also enabled the expression of their ideology: sea-hunting (land and hunting tool), oligo-accumulation, non-violence, egalitarianism, the refusal to learn and thus to attend school.

This archipelagic Eldorado permitted the distribution of gathering areas between five mother-islands, each inhabited by a flotilla, which is more or less an extended family, where every kabang is a nuclear family. This division into sub-groups helps to

During British rule, which ended in 1947, missionaries and officers started to study the Moken, with the view either to convert them or make them taxable by the



all short, only a few and they were

The Moken is believed to be a boat called moa and called water.

Even then the Myittha Archipelago remained a remote place, and the British could only place taxes on Moken products through Chinese intermediaries (toke). Rapid changes began in the 1980s when thousands of Burmese migrated to central and lower Burma, including the Archipelago, fleeing political unrest and economic distress.

MOKEN CULTURE'S FOUNDATIONS

Moken became their name (see box Gamau p. 23).

Lampi Folding MAP

Under the supervision of:

 Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism


 Bangladesh

Hosted by:

 Bangladesh National Tourism Organization


 Visit Bangladesh 2016
 Life Happens Here


 Pacific Asia Travel Association



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Wildlife Conservation Project is working to conserve the park's biodiversity. It involves monitoring the park's wildlife and managing the resources to ensure the survival of the park's species. The project also aims to educate the local community and the park's visitors about the importance of wildlife conservation.

For more information, visit the website: www.lampi.gov.bd

WELCOME TO LAMPI MARINE NATIONAL PARK

Established in 2000, the park is a beautiful island in the Bay of Bengal. It is a haven for nature lovers and a great place to experience the beauty of the sea. The park is home to a wide variety of habitats and a rich biodiversity. It is a great place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

Habitat Type: Mangrove Forest, Evergreen Forest, Semi-evergreen Forest, Dune Forest, Hornbill, Flying Fox, Sea Turtle, Moken Spiritual Site, Village, Park Facility, Visitor Centre, Lodge, Snorkelling Site, Kayaking Tour, Walking Trail.

KEY RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS

Forest habitat

While Lampi is mainly covered by tropical forested evergreen forest, it is also ecologically rich in mangrove forest, thick along the Park's rivers and freshwater creeks, which are home to many species of molluscs, crustaceans and fish.

Marine habitat

Coral reefs, seaweeds and sea grass beds for molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms and other important species such as the green sea turtles and the dugong, as well as for a variety of birds.

CANOEING IN THE MANGROVES

Lampi has two permanent rivers, both of which are in mangrove forest. The rivers are a great place to enjoy the beauty of the mangroves and the island's natural beauty.

HIKING IN THE JUNGLE

While there is a single track on the island, the best way to explore the island is by foot. The island is a beautiful place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

SNORKELING

There are several areas within the Park for snorkelling. The best place to snorkel is in the Bay of Bengal. The island is a beautiful place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

DIVING WITH THE MOKEN

Lampi is a great place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island. The island is a beautiful place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

Fauna

The Park conserves a wide variety of habitats and a rich biodiversity with over 200 species of birds, 19 of which are listed in IUCN's Red List, 1 amphibian and 1 reptile species, about 20 species of mammals, 7 of which are endangered, and 3 species of sea turtles.

BIRDWATCHING

The Park is a great place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island. The island is a beautiful place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

OBSERVATION OF SEA-TURTLES

There are several areas within the Park for observing sea-turtles. The best place to observe sea-turtles is in the Bay of Bengal. The island is a beautiful place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

The local population

Nearly 3,000 people reside in 3 settlements around the Park, including a few scattered islands, sea gnomes that have roamed the island, their spiritual and cultural values. They are the "Mother Island" and the largest island in the Park.

MAKYONE GALET VILLAGE TOUR

The tour of the main village, located on the island, is a great place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island. The island is a beautiful place to enjoy the beauty of the sea and the island.

DOs & DON'Ts

Be a Responsible Tourist !

- Code of Conduct drafted & included in the folding map, guidebook, posters/panels
- Domestic tourism – growing fast !! But short-stay





What has been achieved so far?

Park Promotion & Visibility

➤ Lampi MNP new logo and official website

www.lampipark.org

➤ Lampi Project Video Documentaries

➤ Fund raising campaign:

○ mobilize tourist donations to support community development initiatives and Park's conservation

○ Fund rising campaign promoted among tourist sector, especially through yachting companies, tour operator & their websites


I love.
Lampi

Next Steps.....

Develop CBT Accommodation.... (but how.....???)

- Need community & private sector partnership.....
- Community have few skill sets...
- Not to compete with Wa Ale resort.....
- Must be a community experience.....with a strong sense of community engagement & ownership.....
-and develop local skill sets to enable them to take over management (5-10 yrs)



Next Steps.....

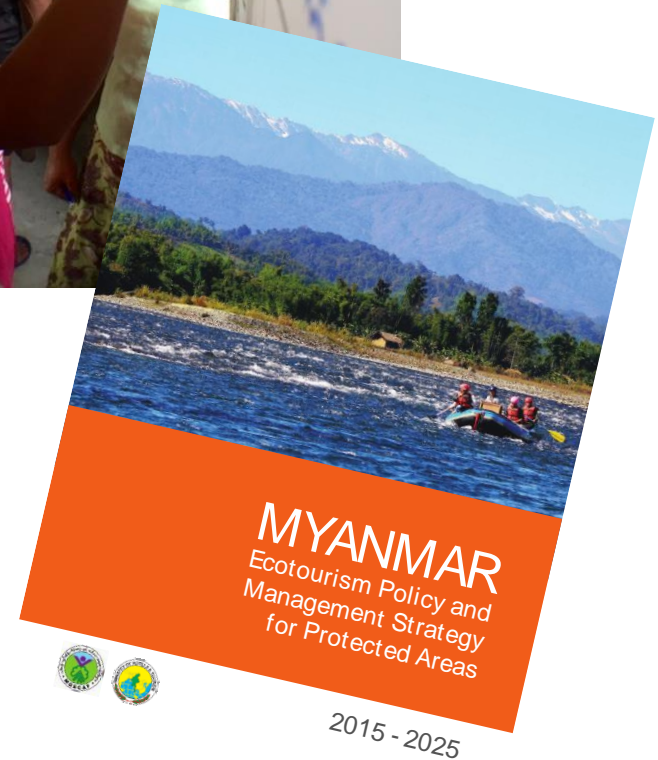
Develop Moken-focused products

- Working with CNRS Paris & renowned anthropologists to develop.....
- Lampi museum / cultural space & travelling exhibitions
- Build 3-5 kabangs, living museum..
- Park tours on kabangs
- Develop Moken excursions
- Products designed & trialed in partnership with CBT accommodation project & current tourists



Design & deploy ecotourism-related sustainable funding mechanisms

- Park entry fee
- User fees (anchoring, kayaking, snorkelling, commercial filming, etc..)
- Concessions & leases (Wa Ale, future accommodation...)
- Guidelines for use of funds (conservation & community development)
- Align with national policy & strategy for protected areas



Engage domestic tour operators...

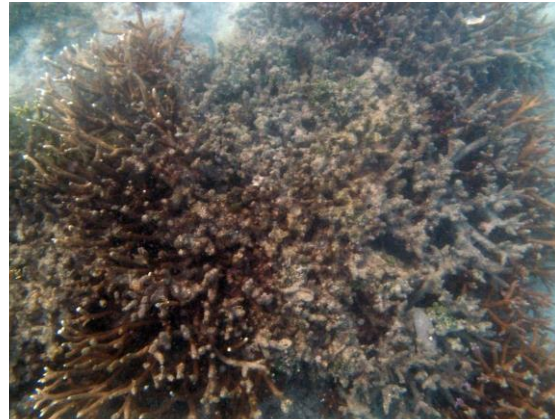
- Guidelines for guest-houses in village for domestic tours (size, water-use, waste management, etc..)
- Engage domestic tour operators in product development activities
- Survey domestic tourists
- Engage community in excursion development activities / businesses design & management
- Quality control & capacity issues....



Next Steps.....

Exploring options for a coral restoration project.....

- Habitat restoration & management.....
- Engage the Moken
- Partner with Marine Science Department, Myeik University
- Research project
- Visitor attraction, community education and engagement in conservation activities





www.lampipark.org

