

MOKEN KABANG TOURS

Micro-project for sustainable livelihoods & community development of the Moken on Koh Phayam

Project Title:	Moken Kabang Tours (Chumchon)	Donor:	contribYOUte gGmbH
Location:	Koh Phayam, Ranong (Thailand)	Local Partner:	All for Villages (501(c)3)
Funding Amount:	€4,000.00 (148,800 THB)	Contact Person:	Fiona Parsons (All for Villages)
Target Group:	Moken Community Koh Phayam	Project Vessel:	"Moken Kabang" (8.5m Longtail)

€4,000

TOTAL BUDGET

8–10

GUESTS PER TOUR

3 Men

TEAM & CAPTAINS

100%

FUND REINVESTMENT

1. BACKGROUND & PHILOSOPHY: THE "CHUMCHON" PRINCIPLE

The Thai word **"Chumchon"** simply translates to *community*. For the Moken people living on Koh Phayam, however, it represents far more than just a word—it describes a deeply rooted way of life. In the traditionally orally transmitted language of the Moken, there are no words for *greed*, *worry*, or *selfishness*. This absence of resentment forms the core foundation of this joint project.

"We do not view the Moken as mere recipients of aid, but as an inspiration. Their genuine togetherness motivates us to work alongside them in shaping paths toward a self-determined and economically independent future."

Once living as "sea nomads," the Moken currently face major socio-economic challenges and a lack of formal state recognition. Through the long-standing partnership with the non-profit organization **All for Villages** and its representative Fiona Parsons, the initiative was launched to acquire, restore, and equip a dedicated community boat.

2. PROJECT OUTCOMES & OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

The project name unites the identity of the ethnic group with their native language: **"Moken Kabang"**—*Kabang* being the traditional Moken word for boat. The 8.5-meter longtail boat powered by a 19 HP engine was successfully repaired, fully equipped, and officially licensed for tour operations.

Operational Management & Team

- **Wut (Tour Guide):** Bilingual (Moken & fluent English), leads the tours and serves as the main contact person for international guests.
- **Oden & Tiny (Captains):** Share captain duties on a rotation basis, ensuring that multiple Moken families directly receive a reliable income.
- **Repair & Maintenance:** Expert fiberglass hull repairs carried out by Lek's father and Wut.

Offered Tour Programs

- **Island Tour** Snorkeling, swimming, and fishing around Koh Phayam.
- **Day Trip** Neighboring island Koh Chang (fishing, lunch, swimming).
- **Eco-Tour** Koh Kaem Beach Clean (plastic waste collection sold to Ranong Recycle).
- **Preview** "3-Island Tour" planned for the upcoming high season.

Multifunctional Off-Season Utilization: During the low tourist rainy season (May to November), the boat is utilized for traditional fishing. This secures the village's food supply and preserves the centuries-old maritime heritage and skills of the Moken.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT & ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDS

The allocated grant budget of **€4,000.00 (148,800 THB)** was fully and exclusively spent on purchasing, restoring, equipping, and licensing the project vessel. The detailed breakdown of expenses is presented below:

EXPENSE ITEM / MEASURE	COST (THB)	COST (EUR)	CATEGORY
Purchase of Wooden Longtail Boat (8.5m hull)	70,000 THB	€1,883.00	Materials / Boat
Purchase of Longtail Engine (19 HP)	29,500 THB	€793.00	Materials / Engine
Stainless Steel Drive Shaft Replacement	11,000 THB	€295.00	Materials / Technical
Starter Battery	3,200 THB	€86.00	Materials / Equipment
Safety & Recreational Gear (Snorkels, masks, fishing rods, life jackets)	12,000 THB	€322.00	Equipment
Fiberglass Hull Repair Materials	7,000 THB	€188.00	Maintenance
Labor Allowance for Local Moken Craftsmen (4 days of repair work)	4,000 THB	€107.00	Personnel (Local)
Boat License, Registration & Insurance (1st Year)	7,500 THB	€201.00	Licensing / Legal
Contingency Reserve for Miscellaneous Small Parts	4,600 THB	€125.00	Reserve
TOTAL SUM (ACCOUNTED):	148,800 THB	€4,000.00	100% Allocated

4. LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY & FUTURE FOLLOW-UP PROJECTS

A key structural element of the project design is its reinvestment mechanism: approximately 1,500 Baht per tour is paid directly into a community-managed Moken Fund. This fund fulfills two strategic objectives:

- 1. Reserve Building:** Covering future maintenance, repairs, and operational costs of the vessel.
- 2. Reinvestment in Follow-up Projects (Women's Empowerment):** Tour earnings gradually repay the initial internal capital investment to fund an independent women's project in the village.

Planned Follow-up Project: Moken Handicraft & Sewing Workshop

With the generated revenue, a building in the Moken village will be renovated to serve as a sheltered workshop for women during the rainy season. Planned activities include:

- Utilizing donated treadle sewing machines to produce handmade bags and hand-painted sarongs.
- Crafting and selling traditional Moken art and souvenirs to tourists during the high season.
- Expanding educational programs (English lessons for children and youth) to foster long-term independence.

Acknowledgments & Conclusion

On behalf of Wut, Lek, Oden, Tiny, and the entire Moken community of Koh Phayam, we express our heartfelt gratitude to **contribYOUte gGmbH** for their trust, vision, and generous support.

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