

The Academic Service Center of Walailak University is an organization dedicated to driving its mission of social responsibility, particularly in environmental conservation. Walailak University has participated in the evaluation of the UI GreenMetric World University Ranking, conducted by the University of Indonesia. The 2023 theme for UI GreenMetric is "Innovation, Impact, and Future Directions for Sustainable Universities." UI GreenMetric aims to focus on the efforts of universities in continuing sustainability projects and policies, innovation, impact, and future directions to become sustainable institutions in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations. Providing academic services to the surrounding community is a core mission of the university.

Ban Laem Homestay is a small community located in Thasalak Sub-district, Thasalak District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. The community's appeal lies in its way of life, which is reflected in everyday occupations and has evolved into community-based tourism, managed by the locals themselves. This initiative has become an additional source of income, improving the quality of life for the community members. From field visits, it was found that the Ban Laem community lacks green public spaces accessible to everyone, as natural forests are situated far from the community. Therefore, transportation is required for community tourism activities along the route. There is a need to develop a Geo-Social Mapping initiative to promote low-carbon tourism. This is crucial for the sustainable development of the community's structural base, enhancing the safety and resilience of human settlements while increasing the absorption of greenhouse gases.

Thus, the Academic Service Center, in collaboration with the School of Management and relevant public and private sector networks, has developed the "Transportation (TR) Project to Link UI GreenMetric and SDGs 13" (ED4). The project focuses on creating a walking map and low-carbon tourism routes for the community through training local entrepreneurs. The goal is to develop a walking map for Ban Laem to promote environmentally friendly travel (TR 7, TR 8). The project activities include contacting community leaders to discuss the community's way of life and needs, developing a project proposal, consulting with faculty and community leaders on feasible approaches, and defining the work plan and project format. The project also involves introducing the project, providing education on climate change, and the Geo-Social Mapping process, and finally presenting the results and disseminating information to the community.

During the field visit, the team met with community leaders to gather feedback and suggestions for creating a walking map that supports conservation tourism and community learning. Additionally, key routes and points of interest were surveyed to ensure the map's accuracy and comprehensiveness. This walking map project is part of efforts to promote sustainable tourism in the community and represents a collaboration between the community and Walailak University to enhance the visibility and value of Ban Laem Homestay. It also serves as an activity to raise awareness among all stakeholders about reducing greenhouse gas emissions and understanding local climate change risks, impacts, and mitigation strategies, aligning with SDG 13.3.1. Furthermore, the project adheres to SDG indicator 17.2.1, which involves integrating and building partnerships with relevant networks and agencies. The project also includes activities such as video documentation of knowledge sharing, low-carbon tourism routes, and mangrove reforestation, alongside environmental management education to address climate change. The aim is to engage the community actively in sustainable development, emphasizing greenhouse gas reduction efforts to foster community involvement and environmental awareness. This includes activities related to waste segregation at the source or origin within Ban Laem, Thasalak Sub-district, Thasalak District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, to create participation and environmental consciousness among community members, entrepreneurs, and the public in managing greenhouse gas emissions impacting climate change.