

### **Project Update: October 2017**

A rearing pen with a circular area of almost 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> has been built by villagers at Koh Poo, Krabi province. They have past experience raising sea cucumbers and were willing to supply poles and labour for construction while this project bought the netting and ropes. The resulting pen is larger and more ambitious than initially proposed, but is consistent with the expectations and experience of the villagers. The pen is in an area of seagrass meadow which retains about 1 m of water at lowest tide. The villagers stocked the pen with over 5,000 juvenile sea cucumbers from local meadows. That number seems high and may be beyond the capacity of the pen, but we are now monitoring the sea cucumbers and to date they are growing well. The villagers have encountered a problem with a fish which bites holes in the net allowing some sea cucumbers to escape.



Left: Constructing sea cucumber rearing pen at Koh Poo. Right: Sea cucumber rearing pen at Koh Poo at low tide.