The Chao Phraya or *Mother of Waters*

Red mangroves grow along the shore of Thailand’s Lipe Island, one of many offshore islands included in the country’s Tarutao Marine National Park, off the western coast in the Strait of Malacca. Mangroves are an essential part of the marine ecology in many tropical areas of the world, providing estuaries for wildlife nesting and feeding.

The Chao Phraya meanders through the alluvial plain of central Thailand, a major rice-growing region that owes its fertility to the river. In Thailand, the Chao Phraya is also called Menam, meaning "Mother of Waters."