

**National Reports to UNFF 5**

**National Report to the Fifth Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests**

**Thailand**

**21 March 2005**

# Table of Content

## **I. Key Contacts**

## **II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action**

### **General Progress**

#### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2**

1. *Combating deforestation and forest degradation*
  - 1.1. *Causes of deforestation*
  - 1.2. *Strategies to combat deforestation and forest degradation*
  - 1.3. *Raising awareness on forest importance and issues related to deforestation and forest degradation*
  - 1.4. *Support community forest management with existing law*
  - 1.5. *Transparency of financial institutions and innovative approach*
2. *Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems*
  - 2.1 *Declaration and management of conservation and protected areas*
  - 2.2 *Testing and promoting joint management in protected areas management*
  - 2.3 *Implementation of International Conventions Relate to Forest Resources:*
3. *Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover*
  - 3.1. *Reforestation of degradable forest*
  - 3.2. *Techniques in reforestation*
  - 3.3. *Plantation Act and Private Plantation,*

#### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3**

5. *Economic aspects of forests, including trade*
  - 5.1 *Pattern of domestic wood consumption*
  - 5.2 *Data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes*
  - 5.3 *Efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade*
  - 5.4 *participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes*
6. *Forest health and productivity*
7. *Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs*

#### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4**

8. *Social and cultural aspects of forests*
9. *Traditional forest-related knowledge*
10. *Scientific forest-related knowledge*
11. *monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions*
12. *criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management*

## **III. Preparation of the Report**

## **I. Key Contacts**

### **Head of Forestry in Thailand**

Name: Mr. Yongyut Tiyapairat

Title: Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

Contact information:

Address: 92 Phahonyothin 7, Phyathai, Bangkok 10400

Phone: +662 2788503

Fax: +662 2788506

E-mail: [yongyut@monre.go.th](mailto:yongyut@monre.go.th)

### **UNFF national focal point for Thailand:**

Name: Mr. Chatchai Ratanophat

Title: Director General of Royal Forest Department

Contact information:

Address: 61 Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Phone: +662 5794296

Fax: +662 5798611

E-mail: [anawat@hotmail.com](mailto:anawat@hotmail.com)

### **Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point:**

Name: Mr. Anawat Sukhotanang

Title: Senior Forestry Official

Contact information:

Address: 61 Phahonyothin Road, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand

Phone: +662 5614292-3 ext 484, 498

Fax: +662 5795412

E-mail: [anawat@hotmail.com](mailto:anawat@hotmail.com)

*This is a preliminary National Report for the United States prepared for the Fifth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF5). It has been prepared by the Royal Forest Department with consultation several key partners in forest sector in Thailand.*

## **II. Progress and issues related to implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action**

### **General Progress**

This report is Thailand's first national report to the UNFF. It also provides brief general information on forest resources and its management as well as the progress on implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action in Thailand. As this is a national report, the programs and actions mentioned are not limited to the government forestry work but also private and academic programs.

Thailand got its latest Constitution in 1997, which emphasizes on participation and equity right for people in natural resources, forest management regime have reoriented to promote and support people participation. However, there are some limitations, such as current laws and regulations are not coherent with, and capacity and attitude of government staff and its stakeholders toward participations for sustainable resources management are limited and new. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE) has been established in 2002 with emphasize management of natural resources by and with people participation. The roles and existences of local communities, including hill-tribes and lowland Thai communities whether or not their residents are inside or outside a forest or a protected area, have been recognized. Many national programs have been initiated and implemented to facilitate and secure people livelihoods while maintaining forest conditions.

There are three key departments in MoNRE responsible for forest resources. Royal Forest Department, originally attached to Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC) now transferred to MoNRE, is responsible for management of economic forest and forest product utilization. Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DoNP) has its duties on forest conservation and protected areas management. Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is responsible for mangrove conservation and management. In addition to these departments, there is also the state enterprise agency namely Forest Industry Organization (FIO) which manage the government commercial plantation sector and being the only agency authorized to buy and sell confiscated teak logs.

Accessibility to modern technology, update information and maps had positively supported the improvement of Thailand forest management and monitoring process. With satellite images (Landsat-7 ETM at the scale of 1:50000 and IKONOS), forest cover had been re-identified as 33.15 percent of the total country area in 2000 (RFD, 2003)<sup>1</sup>. Better communication and transportation have also considerably promoted stronger networks in forest management and conservation both in term of community, volunteer, and private sectors.

Concerning to forest certification, and criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, the Royal Thai Government (RTG) by RFD, FIO, and Ministry of Commerce, has formed a national committee to consider and develop the national system. There have been several consultations with private and academic sectors on the need of national system and how the system should be to best fit with their needs and capacities. However, there is a great deal that remains to be accomplished.

Continuous campaigns on forest and nature conservation, and lesson learn from the natural disasters have resulted in high level of conservation awareness in Thailand. Programs campaigning on conservation have been conducted through not only the national mass media, such as radio station and television, but the locals. Sponsorships into those campaigns have come from all sectors, in particular the private, who have supports for not only in cash but also investing to host several forest rehabilitation programs and awarding individual or community who are good doers in forest conservations. This is in

---

<sup>1</sup> RFD, Forestry Statistic of Thailand 2003.

particularly the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) who has been working on its program call Green Globe Award for more than 12 years.

Thailand had expressed its sincerity and commitment on sustainable forest management and conservation since early 1960s. RTG is one of the founder member of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) who now having its Asia Regional Office in Bangkok. Similarly, FAO has its regional office in Bangkok for more than 20 years. Further than this, Thailand was a host country for many international forest conservation and management events, e.g. the Second Regional Model Forest Workshop “Participatory Processes-Developing Partnership that Work in 2001, the ITTO Counselors Meeting of ITTO in 2002, the 14<sup>th</sup> CITES COP Meeting in 2004, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2004.

Thailand looks forward to sharing its information and experiences with all UNFF members and partners with hope that our contributions to UNFF could bring the world, not only PCF, to understand and cooperate with us to improve our forest management toward more sustainable and less impact to the environment.

## **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2**

### *1. Combating deforestation and forest degradation*

#### *1.1. Causes of deforestation*

The first five national development plans<sup>2</sup>, 1960-1990, RTG emphasized its policy and budget allocated to exporting of natural resources. Logging and mining were main source of national income. The sixth national plan (1990-1994), RTG reoriented its plan into conservation and preservation of forest resources. Unfortunately, the plan did not withhold other factors which influence the destruction of forest resources. Overexploitation and lost of forest cover continued. These factors included the ineffective in forest management and the expansion of urbanizations and cultivations in order to meet the needs of the growing population and exporting.

In this half century, official record of Thai population had been increased from 18 to 60 millions. The figure does not yet reflect the real pressure on forest resources. Official record does not include unregistered population, for example refugee, hill tribes and illegal immigrants, who are temporarily or permanently migrate to Thailand for settlement and employment. These groups certainly generate more pressure on resource consumption, in particular at the border provinces. Consequence of population growth and settlement of both registered and unregistered populations are urbanizations, which replace forest area permanently. Without effective monitoring mechanism, large numbers of community settle in the forest.

History of these communities are differed, but can be grouped into three. The first group is the indigenous tribe who used to migrate thoroughly the north of Thailand and in particular along the border with Myanmar and Laos. These tribes, mostly hill tribes, used to move around and practice their rotated cultivation system. Last half century, opium was their major crops. Today with higher population and limitation on land, they cannot migrate from place to place anymore. Their villages need to be settled permanently. Same as their cultivation pattern, rotation system has been gradually mixed and replaced by intensive agriculture with fertilizer. Awareness on forest conservation and better forest monitoring system help freezing the expansion of forest encroachment.

The second group is the refugee, whose migration has been either registered or unregistered through the legal process. There has been recorded that some refugee becomes the source of cheap labor for illegal logging in the north of Thailand. In addition, wildlife and non-timber forest product in the forest nearby

---

<sup>2</sup> National Social and Economic Development Plan

refugee camps have been recorded to be harvested heavily and overexploited. Lastly, community introduced to the forest by logging concession since logging was massive throughout the country during the nineteenth century. With irresponsible logging operators, most of the worker settled in the forest after the timber logged. Many of these communities started from a few pioneers who were logger and who invited their families and friends to move into the found land with some charged. These cases were common in 1930-70 and the pioneers who cleared the forest were praised as a hero. Consequences from the above cases, forest covered were replaced by residents and their cultivations. After the community formed, temples, schools, government services and infrastructures, such as road, electricity and water supply introduced to improve people living conditions.

Significant forest area has been replaced by government infrastructure developments, including dams both for irrigation and electricity generations, highways, industrial estates, and university. Most of these developments normally follow by migrations and settlements.

Natural disasters in Thailand, even they are not as harsh as in other countries, should be noted as a cause of forest lost though. In 2004, total of forest land burnt was 322.81 square kilometers<sup>3</sup>. Other than the fire, land slide, flooding and recently tsunami (on 26 December 2004) affected the lost of some forest cover.

The Review of Protected Areas and Development<sup>4</sup> concluded that there were two main underlying cause of deforestation in Thailand, which are the increasing demand for land for agriculture to meet the needs of the growing population and commercial logging. Increasing demand for land had been affected by land prices, land productivities, crop prices, off-farm employment and income, while logging whether legal or illegal was influenced by the forest resources accessibility, and wood demand and prices.

The Timber Trade Study<sup>5</sup> indicated that at present (2000s) causes for forest loss lie in national policy and legislative which oversights and in fundamental and inter-related socio-economic factors, such as population growth; inequitable distribution of income resulting in continued rural poverty; and the demand for agricultural land and fuel wood, both in turn being consequences of population growth – factors that have yet to be integrated into natural resource management policies and strategies.

Statistically, it was estimated that Thailand's forest cover declined from 53.3 percent of the total land in 1961 to 25 percent in 1999. The official Forest Department figure of 33 percent of forest area in 2001 and 2002 is unable to compare to other earlier years record because it was calculated with a larger map scale, thus smaller patches of forest was included. Nevertheless, it is likely that the forest area is quite stable in the past few years. The national logging ban<sup>6</sup> in 1988 has removed the pressures placed on natural forests by legal concessions. Statistic of forest cover can be found at [www.forest.go.th/stat/htm](http://www.forest.go.th/stat/htm). The annual deforestation rate has been slowed down from 0.9% before 1989 to 0.4% just after and to 0.2% between 1995 and 1998<sup>7</sup>.

Reduction of deforestation in Thailand in the past decade could be consequents from the following factors, accessibility to market based economic, improvement of infrastructures facilities, e.g. road, electricity and communication, and, last but not least, improvement of forest management. However,

---

<sup>3</sup> Forest Fire Control Division, DoNP, 2005

<sup>4</sup> ICEM, 2003

<sup>5</sup> IUCN, 2001

<sup>6</sup> Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministerial Order 1/2532 halted logging in all timber concessions (except in mangrove concessions) in 12 southern provinces on 13 December 1988. This Order was followed on 10 January 1989 by two Decrees that rescinded all logging concessions in terrestrial forests, and banned logging throughout the country. In 2000, the Cabinet approved the ceasing of new concessions in mangrove forests once the current concessions expired.

<sup>7</sup> Asian Development Bank, "Environments in Transition: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam", 2001, p. 15.

these factors are highly correlation to each others. Today people cooks by on natural gas rather than fire wood and charcoal, and cement construction are more affordable than wooden ones. Although capitalism has reduced rate of deforestation and forest degradation, it reduces people self sufficiency and dependency.

Forest management has been slightly improved due to both the direction of government policy and the pressure from society. Government policies have been emphasized on conservations and sustainable uses of forest resources since logging ban in 1988. They also recognized and supported to people participation and private investment. Nevertheless, without public outcries for stronger conservation and protection, the improvement on forest management would not as succeed as it currently is.

### *1.2 Strategies to combat deforestation and forest degradation*

By the 1980s, after the heavy landslide at Kiriwong Village south of Thailand, the country had turned its point to keep the remaining forests for protection rather than exploitation. This was confirmed in the Seventh National Social and Economic Development (1992-1996) and the following plans, and also altered to the National Forest Policy which requires Thailand to have forest cover at 40 percent of total land area. Within the 40 percent of the country land area, the ratio of conservation and commercial (production) forest, which used to be 15:25, was changed to be 25:15 respectively.

In 1992, in compliance with the National Forest Policy and the challenge of expansion of human resettlement and cultivation, the government re-categorized all national reserved forest<sup>8</sup> estate into three zones, which based on satellite imagery.

The **Conservation Forest Zone (Zone C)** is the area covered by natural forest areas in which then was undisturbed and/or had minimally affected by human activity, and is the areas which identified as ecological sensitive areas, such as habitats of endangered species and watershed area. This zone normally covers existing and nominating to be declared as protected forest areas. Nevertheless, some of this area especially in highland of Northern being occupied by isolated human settlement which carries on their rotate or permanent cultivation.

The **Economic Forest Zone (Zone E)** was set aside from arable land suitable for commercial tree plantations for distribution to landless farmers. The E-zone is often devoid of forest and some has been under cultivation, and some E-zone was in degraded forest areas.

The **Agricultural Zone (Zone A)** was set aside expressly in degraded and deforested areas deemed suitable for agriculture. In 1993, RFD transferred 70,848 square km of Zone A to Agricultural Land Reform Office (ALRO) for issuing forest dwellers Sor Por Kor 401- title guarantees villager usufruct right to cultivate. This Sor Por Kor 401 title is not salable and only transferable to descendant. After the transfer of land management, ALRO becomes responsible agency of the Zone A. In 2002, small portion of Zone A which is unsuitable for agriculture was legally return to RFD for forest rehabilitation.

This above exercise was launched with expectation of clarification of where good and degraded forest was and how to best manage and improve its condition by whom and what mechanism. In the present 9<sup>th</sup> NESDP (2002-2006), the country carries on its national forest policy aiming to achieve having 25 % of total country area as conservation forest and 15% of economic forest.

Another key strategy to combat with deforestation and forest degradation is to eliminate people poverty. This program includes providing local people with tenure securities and improving infrastructures facilities. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Human

---

<sup>8</sup> According to National Reserve Forest Act 1964, management objective of a national reserve forest is for sustainable use of forest land and forest product, including timber concession, leasing of forest land, permission for non-timber forest product.

Security are the main responsible agencies to improve people livelihood. Concerned agencies are for example Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Livestock (DoL), Royal Irrigation Department, Department of Local Administration (DoLA), Department of Labor Skill Development and Department of Human Security. In term of securing land tenure key organizations are Land Department (Ministry of Interior) and Agricultural Land Reform Office (Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives). In addition to these government key agencies, there are a number of public organizations working toward people livelihood and securing their rights, e.g. Human Right National Commission, Administration Court, Tourism Authority of Thailand, etc.

Moreover, there are also local government organizations and NGO both national and local levels who actively involve in combating with forest deforestation in Thailand, through promoting public awareness, improving community livelihood and securing their rights. Key Thai NGO can be listed as Wildlife Fund Thailand, Sueb Nakasathein Foundation, Sustainable Development Foundation, Care-Thailand, Dhammanart Foundation, and Assembly of the Poor.

### *1.3. Raising awareness on forest importance and issues related to deforestation and forest degradation*

Thai society awareness and appreciation on forest resources have been tremendous raised up since 1980s. This was due to consequents from accumulated tragedies and lessons learnt from the lost of lives and investment result from natural disasters and human acts.

Within the last 20 years, there were at least four major natural disasters devastated people lives and properties. From these disasters, Thai society has learnt that without forest cover the effects could be worse. These occurrences can be listed as (1) heavy rain caused massive land slide covered Katun and Kiriwong village in the South in 1988, (2) Gay hurricane hit at Chooporn Province in 1991, (3) heavy rain on steep and degraded forest led to massive land slide cover Num Khor Village in the North in 2000, and recently on the 26 December 2004, and (4) tsunami hit the six southern coastal provinces in Andaman Sea. Land use patterns had been the key factors indicate how severe the consequences from nature disaster would be, both in term of ecological and socio-ecological lost. From these occurrences forest cover has proved to be guardian to human security.

Indicators of public awareness in forest management can be indicated from how media responses and publishes. Earlier than 1980s, RFD officials<sup>9</sup> whom died in the forest from protecting forest and wildlife were blamed as ones who harassed poor people. Not until the last two decades, the public starts to have positive perception on this type of events. For example, the RFD staff become national heroin and hero when Mrs. Kanitarat Yenkhay who lost her conceived baby and almost her life on her way to safeguard her staff from forest fire in March 1989 and Mr. Sueb Nakasathein who devoted his life and soul to improve raise awareness on protection of wildlife habitat by committed suicide in September 1990.

Today, most of the mass media keep good tracks on publishing and broadcasting issues and comments toward forest conservation and in particular through people participation. It can be estimated that at least 10% of daily media, such as newspaper, radio channel, and television program cover and present information or news relate to forest resources, direct and indirect value, and forest conservation. Books, texts, pocket books, and magazines on forest ecosystem and its value are commonly found at any bookstore. Most popular topics are issues relate to nature based tourism, ecotourism, parks and wildlife.

While it is a mandate of government sector to raise public awareness in forest conservation, a number of public and private organizations have doing the same. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is handles this duties through many of its department, such as Department of Environmental Quality Promotion (DEQP), Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DoNP), Department of Coastal and Marine Resources, and Royal Forest Department. Samples of private sectors are the

---

<sup>9</sup> Their names were engraved at the monument locates with RFD.

Petroleum Authority of Thailand, Agricultural and Cooperatives Bank, Krung Thai Bank, Electricity Generate Authority of Thailand, Cement Thailand Company Limited, and etc.

#### *1.4 Support community forest management with existing law*

Since the latest enacted Thai National Constitution 1997 emphasized the need and promotion for participation and decentralization of government administration. It recognizes the right of traditional communities to participate in the management, maintenance, preservation, and exploitation of natural resources and environment in a balance fashion and persistency as provided by law, thus it has led to many changes in forest management in Thailand, which can be summarized as follow.

- Reformation of forest management national institutions (RFD) in 2002 towards people participatory and inclusive system for collaborative natural resource. This is in particular the establishment of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment which comprise of:
  - Royal Forest Department who supports and facilitates the executing of people rights in forest management via the approval of Director General of RFD to establish a community managed forest according to the Act of National Reserve Forest 1964 and the Forestry Act 1941. Since 1987 RFD has invested in promoting and supporting local communities to manage their nearby forest patches. These inputs were spread out to the total of 10,848 villages. As there are certain criteria to be met, however, not all of these villages obtain eligible for a legal establishment status. Up to January 2004, there are 5,285 villages receive permission to manage 4,761 forest patches with the area of 1,947 square kilometers throughout the country<sup>10</sup>. The permission aims to authorize and legalize to a group of local people who committed themselves to manage the nearby forest which either be a national reserve forest or a public land to provide as their food bank or multiple proposed forest. These utilizations include the use for household timber and non-timber forest product. It is important to note that RFD has exercised this initiative since 1987, even though there was no specific law<sup>11</sup>.
  - Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation who has initiated a project called Pilot Park Management, which promotes and encourage people participation in national park and wildlife management. Starting in 2001 (as RFD) with only six pilot parks, the number of testing parks has been increased steadily from 6, to be 12 and 18 parks in 2003 and 2004 respectively. With positive outcomes from this project, the Danish Government (Danida) decided to supports DoNP to on to this project, in term of implementation at field levels, analysis and collection of lesson learn, and replication into national policy and management mechanism.
  - Department of Coastal and Marine Resources whose policy emphasizes on people participation in mangrove forest conservation and management. The existing mangrove forest (1,600 square kilometre) have been declared as conserving forest and the mangrove logging concession have been cancelled in 2001.

In addition to the above program of each key department, there are also several programs shared by all departments, which support local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management which are Her Majesty the Queen's initiative programs. They are for example, Pah Ruk Namh (means forest for water), Baan Lek Nai Pah Yai (means small house in large forest) and the Highland Agriculture Development Station that are shared and integrated to wider government departments and communities. These programs aim to provide

---

<sup>10</sup> Calculate from 66 forest covered provinces, out of 76 provinces in Thailand, including Bangkok - the capital. Forest Community Promotion Office, Royal Forest Department, January 2005

<sup>11</sup> There is a long debate concerning the Community Forest Bill for more than 10 years.

local or indigenous people who living inside forest areas with government intervention and recognition to and promote the integration of their customary and traditional knowledge into forest management and to improve their agriculture practices and market accessibility.

In order to further the above royal principles, in 2004 MoNRE has forwarded the concepts into a program calls “New Approach of Forest Village”. The objective of the project is to promote human and their community to be harmoniously developed with nature and their environment. Mechanisms will be support villagers to have their forum, regulations, and volunteers as forest watcher, recognize villager rights and security to cultivate and reside in forest land with agreement of no enhancement to forest areas, and assist villagers with appropriate agricultural practices and rehabilitation of food bank forest which refers to their tradition and cultures. This program is wide covered to any forest areas, including protected areas and highland watershed areas.

- Decentralize decision-making process, budget planning and allocation to the local government authorities<sup>12</sup> have also promoting and supporting and local community roles in forest management. In 2004, thirty five per cent of the national income from taxation is earmarked for allocation to the Tambon Administration Organization (TAO), which will become the spearheading of economic development through sustainable natural resource management. In order to balance the power of TAO, will be balanced by the Provincial Administration Organization (PAO).
- Thailand has developed several national strategies on natural resources management, conservation and utilization in 2003 and 2004. These national strategies have been adopted by the Cabinet in 2003- 2004. These include the National Strategy on Forest Resources Management, on National Park Management, and on Wildlife Management which all of them had been developed with inputs and reviews by relevant sectors including academy, private sectors and NGOs.
- The World Bank<sup>13</sup> has supported RFD to mobilize Buddhism temple as forest educational center to local people in Nakon Ratchasima Province. In 2004, there are sixteen temples using their compounds and monastic for training on environment and forestry issues, such as tree nurseries, plantation, agroforestry, and being a meeting place for forestry and heritage groups.

### *1.5 Transparency of financial institutions and innovative approach*

Since October 2004, Thai government has changed its manual system to be electronic system calls “Government Fiscal Management Information System: GFMIS” national wide. This GFMIS is the new financial system that requires financial management to link all budgetary information and monitoring into on line – real time system. It is aimed to increase the transparency of financial management in Thai government system. This include electronic catalogue, e-shopping, e-auction, and e-tendering, and linking to monitoring and evaluation system that refer to key performance indicator (KPI). Nevertheless, due to the newly introduced into all agencies at once, there are tremendous needs for capacity building for staff to be familiar and skillful with the system. The reliable function of networking system may also cause some difficulty for especially the offices that locates in remote areas.

MoNRE coordinate with Ministry of Finance by the Bank for Agriculture and Cooperatives have started the Farmer Debt Swap for Forest Plantation Project in 2004. The forest plantation can be done in all types of forest and objectives of the planted forest can be either for ecological restoration, conservation

---

<sup>12</sup> There are two types of local government to be concerned with forest resources management, which are the Provincial (Changwat) Administration Organization and Sub-district (Tambon) Administration Organization. Their policy and decision making forum form by people representatives who are elected at province and Sub-district (Tambon comprise of several village) level, respectively.

<sup>13</sup> Thailand Environment Monitor 2004, World Bank and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. 2004. <http://www.worldbank.or.th>

and food bank. Not only planting tree in the identified forest or public land, the farmers can also pay their debts by preparing the planting areas, tree planting, maintenance, weeding and replacing, constructing of check dams, and developing of forest fire break line. Each activity prices differently. Farmers have to register their wills and commitments to join the project at the Bank of Agriculture and Cooperatives. The Bank, then inform the relevant departments, RFD-national reserve forest and permanent forest, DoNP-conservation forest and protected areas, and DMCR-mangrove forest, to approve the plantation sites. Farmers will be trained and provided facilities by the responsible department. The Bank and the department will form monitoring and evaluation team to check farmer works, once checked and satisfy the Bank will deduct the farmer debts or transfer the payment to farmer accounts. In three years (2005-2007), the project estimated to have 300,000 farmers join, total of 3,200 square kilometers to be planted and 7,080 million Baht of farmer debt to be swapped. MoNRE estimates to spend 230 million Baht for managing the project throughout the country.

## 2. Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems

### 2.1 Declaration and management of conservation and protected areas

In order to achieve its 25 percent of the total country land as conservation forest, Thailand has steadily enhanced its conservation forest network through legal mechanisms, such as protected area and other types of conservation forest. Today, in 2004, conservation forest in Thailand can be divided into three management categories, responsible agency and comparative to IUCN protected areas management categories are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Types and number of Thai Protected Areas in 2003 (DoNP, 2004)

Legal status	Types	Responsible agency	IUCN PA Categories	Number	Percentage of total country area (%)
Declared as by Royal Decrees	National Park	DoNP	II	103	10.29
	Wildlife Sanctuary	DoNP	I a & I b	55	6.96
	Non-hunting areas	DoNP	VI	55	0.88
Declared by Director General of Royal Forest Department	Forest Park	RFD, DoNP	III	68	0.17
	Botanical Garden	RFD	VI	15	0.01
	Arboretum	RFD	VI	54	0.01
Declared by Cabinet Resolution	Watershed Class I and II	DoNP	I, II, IV & VI		18.14 mostly overlap with national park, wildlife sanctuary
	Conservation Mangrove	DCMR	VI		0.08
Recognized as International Important Area	Natural World Heritage Site	DoNP		1	Overlay on 2 of the wildlife sanctuaries
	Biosphere Reserve	RFD, DoNP, DCMR	VI	4	Overlay on national reserved forest

The first category, which means declaration by a royal decree and at national level, the related laws<sup>14</sup> intend to protect national unique features and fragile ecosystems which are significant at national level. That is why the laws prohibit neither human settlement nor direct resources extraction inside its boundary. However, after the logging ban in 1989, declaration these areas were slightly shifted from

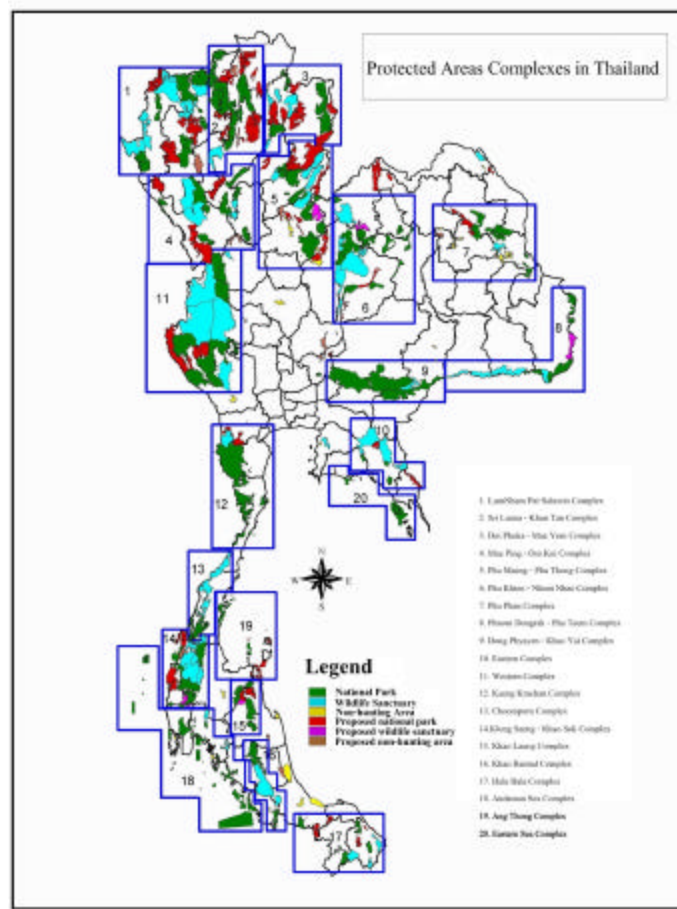
<sup>14</sup> National Park Act 1961 declares a national park. Wild Animal Preservation and Protection Act 1960 amended in 1992 declares a wildlife sanctuary and a non-hunting area

origin to be for protect any natural forest left in Thailand. Consequently, there are happened to have more than 100 sites with the concrete no use law, and however more than 60 per cent of them are smaller than 400 square kilometer and only 10 per cent of them are larger than 1000 square kilometer<sup>15</sup>.

Thus it is needed for Thailand to technically review its management effectiveness. First is to review its management tools and capacities to accommodate more public participation as explained in the above sections. Second is to review its representativeness to ensure all type of forest ecosystem being well protected in the system. Currently, types of forest protected under them are mainly deciduous, evergreen and mangrove forest, while wetland and dry dipterocarp forest are yet lacking. Therefore, it is a need to extend its representativeness to cover such ecosystem, especially dry dipterocarp forest, beach forest, peat forest and wetland. Last but not least is to reorient its management into ecosystem management approach.

Due to small sizes of protected area, it limits possibilities and effectiveness to provide large habitat for wildlife, in particular the large mammal. Thailand has consequently starting to combine management of several of these protected areas under “Complex Approach”. This introduction has been promoted and tested via the Western Forest Complex Project (supported by Danish Government in 1999-2003). It is hoped that this complex approach would improve management effective such as sharing of staff and equipments, centralize database, and provide ecological zones that reflects other socio-economic factors. Geologically throughout the country, these protected areas can be grouped into 20 complexes with 17 terrestrial forest complexes, map shows in figure 1.

Figure 1. Protected Areas Complex



<sup>15</sup> ICEM, Thailand National Report on Protected Area and Development, 2003.

## *2.2 Testing and promoting joint management in protected areas management*

As mentioned earlier, even without any revision of existing laws that support the people participation, Thailand by RFD, DoNP and DCMR have taking initiative to encourage and facilitate public and private participation. Key stakeholders involve in new approach of PA management consist of many sectors, including local communities who living inside or adjacent to the PAs, local government authority: TAO and PAO, NGO: both at local and national level, private sectors: fishing, hotels, tour companies and theirs association. The participation of these stakeholders is based on the shared objective to achieve conservation in a fair and balanced way respecting conservation goals as well as interests of local communities and other stakeholders.

Lesson learnt in PA management<sup>16</sup> found that success stems from adaptive approaches that explicitly incorporate research and monitoring and evaluation into their design, proper understanding of root causes of threats, realistic targets, approaches that are appropriate to the scale needed, sustained and meaningful engagement with stakeholders to create trust, and professional PA management teams who are sympathetic to the problems of the surrounding people. The testing projects included the Western Forest Complex (supported by Danish Government), Pha Tam Forest Complex (supported by ITTO) and Phu Kiew Wildlife Sanctuary Buffer Zone Management (Supported by the EU).

## *2.3 Implementations of International Conventions Relate to Forest Resources:*

Thailand has ratified and progressively implemented forest related international conventions, these include,

- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage (The World Heritage Convention)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Wild Flora and Fauna Species (CITES)
- Man and Biosphere Program (MAB)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (RAMSAR)

### *Convention on Biological Diversity*

Even Thailand recently ratified the CBD in 2004, it has been actively incorporated the conventions in the country plans, policies and implementation since the signatory to the CBD in 1992. Not only formed the National Committee on the Convention<sup>17</sup> since 1993, Thailand had formed its first the National Policy, Strategies and Action Plan on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity 1998–2002. This policy and action plan becomes a national administrative framework to ensure that biodiversity activities do meet national interests as well as to prioritize actions required for achieving the objectives of the CBD. Later in 2002, the Cabinet has amended this first NBSAP to reflect better needs of the country, in addition to biodiversity issues of global concern. Detail can be found in the Thailand National Report on the Implementation of CDB<sup>18</sup>, 2004 submitted to CDB Secretariat or at [www.onep.go.th](http://www.onep.go.th).

### *World Heritage Convention and Man and Biosphere Program*

---

<sup>16</sup> Thailand Environmental Monitor 2004, World Bank and Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 2004. <http://www.worldbank.or.th>

<sup>17</sup> Directly under the National Environmental Board which is chaired by the Prime Minister

<sup>18</sup> Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning, MoNRE,

Today, there is only one natural world heritage site in Thailand, namely Thung Yai – Haay Kha Kheang Wildlife Sanctuary situated in the Western Forest Complex. There are four biosphere reserves in Thailand namely Ngao Forest represents teak forest, Sakaeraj Forest represents dry dipterocarp forest, Huay Kok Mah Forest represents hill evergreen forest, and Ranong Mangrove Forest represents mangrove forest.

In order to enhance collaboration with international agreement, and to raise the country status in international network, Thailand re-submitted the nomination of Khao Yai – Dong Phrayayen Forest Complex for inclusion of the World Heritage List in 2004. This resubmission was done after the first submission in 1990 which was referred and seeking for more information and commitment from the government to ensure the continuity of the forest complex. The complex covers the areas of more than 6,155 square kilometres from the five protected areas in the lower northeast of Thailand. Incidentally, the road # 304 and small number of settlements and their cultivations unconnected the major area, Khao Yai National Park, with others. The government, now, declares its commitment to develop a wildlife corridor to conjure them. This investment in this wildlife corridor would become the first wildlife artificial corridor in Southeast Asia.

### *3. Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover*

Thailand has provided its technical support to Vietnam in the project calls “Establishment of Advanced Integrated Agroforestry Models at Khuon Than, BAC GIANG Province (EMAK)” since 1997. Vietnam requested to His Majesty the King to improve Vietnam forest management in 1994, national agreement has signed in 1997. Technical team from Thailand visited and trained Vietnamese foresters and villagers from the three villages in BAC GIANG Province. RTG initially planned to allocate 62.24 million Baht for 5 years project (1997-2001). Unfortunately, the consequence from Asia economic crisis in 2000, the figure was decreased to be 34.83 million baht in 1999. Project activities included develop 2 demonstration plantation plots with total area of 41.6 ha, developed 100 units of check dam, reforest in 3 degraded areas with total areas of 6.12 square kilometer, and established 1 arboretum with an area of 50 ha.

### *4. Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forestes*

#### *4.1 Reforestation of degradable forest*

In the past, reforestation objective was mainly for economic species. Not until late 1990s when awareness on forest conservation was higher up, reforestation changed to be rehabilitation for restoring of biodiversity and watershed purposes. More diverse species of forest trees were planted on degradable forest wherever it was which make reforestation areas increasing dramatically since 1995.

The main impetus for this was the reforestation project which was part of the Commemoration of the Royal Golden Jubilee of the King’s Coronation, initiated in 1992 under which an ambitious 8,000 square kilometer of trees were planted. The project have been achieving in term of people participation in reforestation, there were individuals, company, schools, university who had involved in donating money, attending planting activities, or supporting community to safeguard their planted forest. However, due to the economic crisis in 1997 and the vast amount of land needed, achievement of the project at 8,000 square kilometer had been delayed and it is expected to be accomplished by the end of 2005. Details can be found at [www.forest.go.th](http://www.forest.go.th).

DoNP is today a leading agency for reforestation inside a protected area, which aims for maintaining forest ecosystem services. This includes the Reforestation for the Royal Golden Jubilee of the King’s Coronation too. Consequent from high awareness on forest value, various partners further the government initiatives into their jurisdiction to promote reforestations for ecosystem service and mostly coordinated with local communities and authorities. In 2004, DoNP has made 10,000 of coin saving

cans distributed to schools, hospitals, banks, and any interested individual to collect coin as saving money for The King Reforestation Project.

There are a number of private and public organizations who initiate their own programs to reforest on degraded forest at both national and local level. These organizations include, for example, Petroleum Authority of Thailand, the Royal Project Coordination Committee Organization, Agricultural and Cooperatives Bank, Electricity Generate Authority of Thailand, Cement Thailand Company Limited, and Wildlife Fund Thailand.

With the success lesson from the terrestrial reforestation under the Commemoration of the Royal Golden Jubilee of the King's Coronation, DCMR also initiate a broad mangrove project to commemorate the 72nd birthday of Her Majesty the Queen Sirikit in 2003. The project has the goal of managing 115,000 ha of mangrove in 23 provinces, including reforestation and set aside of 48,000 ha of good quality mangrove as community protected mangrove areas. Details of the project can be found at <http://www.dmcr.go.th/Download.asp>

#### *4.2 Techniques in reforestation*

Since Thailand locates in tropical zone, the succession of forest ecosystem can be done naturally. As His Majesty the King stated on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1994 “*reforestation can be done mainly by leaving the forest alone; the trees will grow by themselves. In other words, don't disturb the trees; don't ill-treat the trees. Just give them some protection and they will grow by themselves*”. This natural method has been the key principle for reforestation in most of protected areas where no human disturbance and remote from human settlement.

RFD has been the key agency to research, study, collect, and promote techniques in reforestation, starting from seed collection, seeding, nursery, silvicultural practice, fire protection, and so on. The department has established Silviculture Research Centers, and Gene Collection Center of Wild Trees that locate in every region. These centers become a center for training local people, students, and interested farmers who are interested in plantation and reforestation both in term of economic and conservation species. Some of these studied have been supported by Japan Government by JICA and JBIC.

Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University has been the key partners to RFD for developing and testing techniques in reforestation, in term of joining project implementation and provided technical advice to both economic and conservation purposes. Techniques to reintroduce teak, bamboo, rattan, dipterocarp species were good samples of such cooperation. The Forest Restoration Research Unit at Chiang Mai University is also developing techniques to restore natural forests on degraded land specifically to enhance biodiversity, and it is hoped that this and other research will contribute to a richer and more diverse tree cover under future plantation investments.

#### *4.3 Plantation Act and Private Plantation,*

Today, whilst DoNP responds for reforestation in conservation forest, RFD taking lead in promoting and managing reforestation program in any public land. Purpose of reforestation in these public, especially a national reserved forest, or private land can be for conservation or commercial. Main roles of RFD include promote and support technical advice to private or local farmer who invest or being interested in investment on forest plantation. There are also other two key state enterprise agencies involving in forest plantation aiming to produce timber namely FIO and Thai Plywood Company. These two agencies emphasize on economic plantation, such as teak, eucalyptus, and other fast growing species.

Forest Plantation Act of 1992 provides incentives to owners of forest plantations in the form of facilitating the movement of planted logs in the country. Without the act the transportation of any logs,

whether planted or cut from private land was once controlled strictly by the Forest Act 1941, and hence it was too complicated and impeded any private or individual who is interested in commercial forest plantation. There are a number of private companies and individual farmers who invest in forest plantation, mostly teak and eucalyptus. In order to make themselves stronger, they form Forest Farmer Cooperatives, and so on. These cooperatives receive limited support from government, mainly on planting technical support and capacity building in marketing. Hence, these commercial forest plantations are not as popular as others tree species, such as pararubber.

The Thai Board of Investment also provides tax incentives to private sector firms undertaking environmental rehabilitation and restoration projects as part of an export oriented investment of any nature, not only wood and non-wood forest products. However, there is not yet a mechanism to compensate or encourage land owners to save guard his or her properties for non-market environmental benefits and sustainable managing their forests.

### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3**

#### *5. Economic aspects of forests, including trade*

##### *5.1 Pattern of domestic wood consumption*

Thailand was once the world's major timber and sawn wood exporting country in 1960-80s, now it imports timber and sawn wood for domestic consumption. In 2002, Thailand<sup>19</sup> imported 1.4 million cubic meters of tropical sawn wood for furniture and other secondary processing industries. From this amount of importing wood, today, Thailand becomes the third largest tropical exporter of furniture and other secondary processed wood products such as packaging, cooper's products, etc.

For construction, since almost 70% of imported sawn woods are for one-time uses as for example making temporary frames that are removed once the cement is poured<sup>20</sup>, the construction industry create a ready cement block replacing them gradually. These cement blocks are becoming more popular as the house or buildings that use these type of cement are faster built and cheaper.

The consumption of paper for packaging, newsprint and other media (e.g. books) has increased, which has stimulated the expansion of fast-growing, high-yielding plantation areas to support the pulp and paper industry, especially eucalyptus. Eucalyptus plantation has been concentrated in Chacheungsa Province, approximately 250 kilometer east of Bangkok, where the pulp and paper mill locates. It can be found in other several provinces, particularly in east and northeast of Thailand, where water level and soil condition are not healthy. It should be noted that the level of wood pulp productions in Thailand has been maintain at almost 2.5 million ton a year since 1998-2002<sup>21</sup>.

Whilst eucalyptus is mainly for wood pulp, pararubber wood is for particleboard and fiberboard productions. Thailand has become the ITTO's second largest tropical fiberboard exporter and it becomes the largest tropical insulating board exporter in 2002.

Rubber plantations constitute a major supply of round wood, and the manufacture of rubber-wood furniture is expanding rapidly due to its growing demand overseas (mainly Japan and the USA). Rubber wood products make up 70% of exported furniture volumes<sup>22</sup> and are now the lifeline of Thai wood industries.

Many other traditional uses in particular bamboo and rattan such as the manufacture of chopsticks that are thrown away after one use continue in the absence of a clear government call and support for the

---

<sup>19</sup> ITTO Report

<sup>20</sup> IUCN, 2002, Timber Trade Study

<sup>21</sup> ITTO Report

<sup>22</sup> Hammond, D., Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study Working Paper Series No. 22, p. 72.

development of alternative methods and materials. Currently, ITTO is supporting RFD in the following projects: Promotion of Sustainable Utilization of Rattan from Plantation in Thailand, Promotion of the Utilization of Bamboo from Sustainable Sources in Thailand, and Improvement of the Rubberwood Utilization and Marketing in Thailand.

Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University and RFD are the key agencies to invent and conducting research for material to substitute wood and to enhance the lifespan of wood and timber product. However, with limited funding these researches sometime cosponsor by wood industrial company, such as Wanachai Group Company (Public) Co.Ltd., who invent the Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF) which made of pararubber.

Wood industry in Thailand has been positively affected by government interventions. Promotion of Thai wood and furniture products organise by Board of Industry and Department of Export Promotion help stimulating trade volume both at domestic and international markets. For community level, the One Tambon One Product (OTOP) has successfully promoted local wood and non-wood forest products again to both domestic and international market. OTOP is not only increased the number of sale but also supports local producer on how to improve or increase their product quality. One of the success cases of OTOP is Baan Thawhay Village in Chiang Mai province, North of Thailand. From a small wood crafting village, after selected to be OTOP Baan Thawhay becomes the most famous centre for wooden furniture and carving product both for domestic and international market.

### *5.2 Data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes*

Official data, information and regulation processing and trading of wood and non-wood forest products can be obtained from the RFD or at [www.forest.go.th/permission/web/stucture/index.htm](http://www.forest.go.th/permission/web/stucture/index.htm). Likewise, The Sawmills Association<sup>23</sup>, Timber Merchants' Association, and The Thai Furniture Industries Associations<sup>24</sup> can provide lively information and data on wood industrial, domestic and international market and trend, and modern technology and material for substitute wood.

### *5.3 Efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,*

The study on Regulation of the Trade in Timber and Non-timber Forest Products in the Lower Mekong Basin Countries<sup>25</sup> has identified that there are 9 acts<sup>26</sup> and at least 8 actors<sup>27</sup> relate to the access and controlling procedures and mechanisms to wood and non-wood forest products in Thailand. The study recommended Thailand to conduct a systematic review of the entire current regulatory mechanism, to

---

<sup>23</sup> The Sawmills Association: 101/1 Amnuaysongkram Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300, Thailand. Tel 662-2434754 – 55 Fax. 662-2438629 E-mail: smassoc@mail.cscoms.com

<sup>24</sup> The Thai Furniture Industries Associations: 1267/3 Lardpraw 35, Jompol, Jatujak, Bangkok 10900, Thailand. Tel: 662-5136262-63 Fax: 662-5131082.

<sup>25</sup> IUCN, 2001.

<sup>26</sup> Nine acts relate to timber and non-timber product can be listed as follow:

1. The National Constitution, (latest amended in 1997)
2. Forest Act, 1941 (revised in 1948, 1951 and 1960)
3. National Forest Reserve Act, 1954
4. National Parks Act, 1961
5. Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, 1960 (amended 1992)
6. Forest Plantation Act, 1992
7. Customs Act, 1926 (latest amended in 1991)
8. Export and Import Control Act, 1979 (replaces the old Act of 1939 but keeps the regulation made under it)
9. Export Control of Community Products Act, 1977

<sup>27</sup> RFD, Provincial Governor, District Head, Villager (Trader/buyer) ,Policemen Department of Customs, Armed Forces, Commodities Division, Ministry of Commerce, and Forest Industry Organization (FIO only if related to confestiated teak timber)

identify ways of rationalizing and reducing the regulatory burden, in part by creating incentives for industry self-regulation.

RFD agrees with the recommendation. Since the reformation of the department in MoNRE has yet settled, RFD has planned to allocate budget for such a study in 2007. The study will be highly involved with all the other sectors, in particular private industry, TAO, and forest plantation association, academic group. In addition, RFD has introduced the use of bar code to track and inspect both import and export timbers.

#### *5.4 participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and*

RFD, FIO and Ministry of Commerce (by Institution for Industrial Product Standard) have set a national committee to study on how best Thailand to develop a national forest certification. Consequently, 14 December 2004, the Ministry of Commerce has enacted the first national wood and forest product standard system. The standard is adopted from process and criteria from FSC. However, at the consultation meeting called by RFD on 23 February 2005, the meeting agreed for RFD to further develop cooperation from all sectors to further the need for Thailand forest certification system which recognised by international, including FSC.

However, not only the process of certificate issuing and monitoring that still need to be further developed, but also awareness of consumers of these certificate which could easily make the products more expensive that those do not have a label are much need to be raised up and cooperated. Marketing of community product including wood product,

#### *6 Forest health and productivity*

Thailand has no record on whether the air pollution, including acid rain impact to forest health and productivity. On the other hand, forest has been seen as a remedial mean for pollution absorbent or treatment. Wetland and mangrove ecosystems have been promoted to serve as natural water treatments. More information of this study can be found at Ao Kung Krabean Royal Initiative Project, Chantaburi Province and Laem Pak Biea Research Project in Petchburi Province. Information of the two projects can be obtained from the [www.dof.go.th](http://www.dof.go.th) and [www.chaipat.or.th](http://www.chaipat.or.th) respectively.

Concerning to the research of scientific knowledge, Thailand has been actively support international effort. Government of Japan has supported and coordinated with RFD for more than 20 years on forest research and development. In addition, the Kenzai (Japanese company) has coordinated with RFD to research and develop large-scale mangrove afforestation and monitor for its carbon sink capacity. Location of the project was in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Surat Thani, Samut Songkhram, The project was implemented for 4 years from 2000 – 2003. Detail can be found in <http://www.info.tdri.or.th/library>.

#### *7. Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs*

In addition to the activities explained in 2.1 and 4.1, RTG has initiate the project calls “One Tambon, One Park-OTOP” in 2005. The project is executing by RFD, and will be operated for 3 years from 2005-2007. It aims to establish an urban park which base on native forest tree species in every sub-district (7,636 Tambons) and the total areas is estimated to be 91.6 ha. These OTOP parks would help raising people awareness in forest important directly.

### **Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4**

#### *8. Social and cultural aspects of forests*

There are a numbers of studies on social and cultural aspects of forest resources in Thailand, mostly related to forest as food bank, land tenure, community management and believes, etc. Titles and topic of

these researches are unable to be listed here, and most of the publications are in Thai language with only about 10 per cent published in English.

It is important to note here that the Thai book calls “Dynamic of Community in Natural Resources Management in Thailand<sup>28</sup>” provided a very comprehensive information and good analysis on how dynamic the Thai society was related to natural resource management in Thailand. The study reviewed from almost a thousand documents both Thai and English paper, text, book, unpublished document, and newspaper.

The following lists are organizations that conduct research and provide information on social and cultural aspects of forests in Thailand.

Academic Organization:

- Social Research Institute, Chulalongkorn University [www.cu.ac.th](http://www.cu.ac.th)
- Thai Khadee Research Institute, Thammasat University [www.tu.ac.th](http://www.tu.ac.th)
- Faculty of Environment and Resources Studies, Mahidol University [www.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.mahidol.ac.th)
- Research and Development Institute, Khon Kaen University [www.kku.ac.th](http://www.kku.ac.th)
- Faculty of Social Sciences, Chiang Mai University [www.cmu.ac.th](http://www.cmu.ac.th)

Independent Organization:

- Community Organizations Development Institute [www.codi.or.th](http://www.codi.or.th)
- National Human Right Commission [www.nhrc.or.th](http://www.nhrc.or.th)

Independent Academic Organization:

- Thailand Development and Research Institute [www.tdri.or.th](http://www.tdri.or.th)
- Thailand Research Foundation [www.trf.or.th](http://www.trf.or.th)
- Regional Community Forest Training Center [www.recoftc.or.th](http://www.recoftc.or.th)

Key Thai NGOs

- Project for Ecological Recovery,  
409 Rohit Suk, Pracharat Bumpen Road, Haay Khwang, Bangkok 10310  
Tel 662-6910718-20 Fax 662-6910714.
- Wildlife Fund Thailand under The Royal Patronage of H.M.The Queen  
251/88-90 Moo Ban Thavorn Villa, Phaholyothin Rd., Anusawari, Bangkok,  
Bangkok 10220, Thailand  
Tel 662-5213435, 662-5522111, 662-5522790  
Fax 662-552-6083 [www.wildlifefund.or.th](http://www.wildlifefund.or.th)
- Sueb Nakasathein Foundation  
693 Medical Science Department, Building 4<sup>th</sup>  
Yos Sae, Bumrung Maung Road, Klong Mahanak,  
Pomprab Sattru Pai, Bangkok 10100  
Tel/Fax 662-2247838-40  
[www.seub.or.th](http://www.seub.or.th)

Journalist

- Thai Society of Environmental Journalists  
Thai Journalists Association  
358/1 Samsen Road, Dusit, Bangkok 10300  
Tel 662-6689420 Fax 662-6687550  
[www.thaisej.org](http://www.thaisej.org)

---

<sup>28</sup> edited by Anan Ganjanapan, 2000, The study supported by Thailand Research Foundation.

### *9. Traditional forest-related knowledge*

Traditional forest related knowledge has been adopted into principle of community forest management as explained in 1.4. Further study on traditional knowledge on forestry and forest resources have been supported by the Forest Research Office, RFD for decades. Summary of the studies can be found in the [www.forest.go.th](http://www.forest.go.th) or [www.dnp.go.th](http://www.dnp.go.th). These studies aim to record and top up traditional utilization of non-timber product, e.g. pesticides and medicinal plants.

There are number organizations and universities work toward study and promote on food from the forest. Most well know ones can be listed as Mahidol University, [www.environNet.in.th](http://www.environNet.in.th), [www.chaipat.or.th](http://www.chaipat.or.th), The Chaipattana Foundation [www.chaingmai-chaingrai.com](http://www.chaingmai-chaingrai.com),

Another good example of TFRK is the adaptation and promotion of common found grass in Thailand namely vetiver grass (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) as soil and water conservation measures. Its leaves have been traditional use of farmers roof thatching. With the His Majesty the King Bhumipol's initiative study project, its root system found to be perfect for holding soil and water since it does not expand horizontally but penetrates vertically deep into the soil, whether it be the main roots, secondary roots or fibrous roots.

In addition, RFD established 4 literary botanical gardens in all regions (North, Northeast, Central and South) in early 1990. Collection and interpretation of forest trees referred in Thai novels and legends are the key objectives of these 4 literary botanical gardens.

In term of benefit sharing, Thai forest regulation has not covered on TFRK. However, the Plant Varieties Protection Act 1999 executes by Department of Agriculture (DOA) and aims to maintain and conserve the genetic diversity of endangered endemic plant species in Thailand.

### *10. Scientific forest-related knowledge*

Several government programs provide fund for scientific researches related to forest resources, forest non-timber product, and management, the key agencies can be listed as Thailand Research Foundation, Biodiversity Research Thailand, and National Research Council.

The Prime Ministry Thaksin Shinawatarara has introduced new administration system in 2003 for to have provincial governor as CEO (Chief Executive Officer). The CEO has to response for any lost of forest areas in his respective province, by using satellite image as monitoring tool. This has been a major move toward integrated management at provincial level.

DoNP has also cooperated with ASEAN to share its facilities and expert to build up ASEAN countries member capacity in forest fire management. It also uses scientific information to forecast how harsh the fire might be. Fire prediction for 2005 is available at [http://www.dnp.go.th/Dnp\\_pr/forestfire19593.pdf](http://www.dnp.go.th/Dnp_pr/forestfire19593.pdf).

DoNP has implemented the "Joint Management on Protected Area" which is aiming to promote and testing idea of using information, (both ecological and socio-economic through GIS and MIS) to form protected area management plan that consult with relevant stakeholders. This project is also support and encourage NGO, civil society and local communities involve in collecting lesson learn how best the joint management in Thailand should be, what criteria and mechanism should be installed for monitoring and evaluation to ensure the sustainable ecosystem in that protected area.

### *11. Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions*

The "Policy and Prospective Plan for Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality, 1997-2016" (prepared by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning), and the 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan (1999-2004), establish goals, policies, and guidelines for implementation of forest resources management and the management of

biodiversity in Thailand. The goals and targets established in these documents are used to monitor policy implementation.

MoNRE ([www.monre.go.th](http://www.monre.go.th)) has a website with links the Royal Forest Department website ([www.forest.go.th](http://www.forest.go.th)) and the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department ([www.donp.go.th](http://www.donp.go.th)). These websites provide information on forest and protected areas management in Thailand, including related policies and programs and its institutions.

The current National Forest Policy has been adopted by the Cabinet since 1985, and focused on the promotion of private investment of commercial forest. It is obvious that the policy is needed to be reviewed and updated. This revision would allow integration of forest related international conventions, and other national strategic plan and policy.

#### *12. Criteria and indicator of sustainable forest management*

RFD has formed team to study and develop the national C&I since 1998, which refers to the recommendation of ASEAN SOM-AMAF 2000 stated that ASEAN should follow ITTO Guideline to develop a national C&I. In 2001, after the national consultation on 28 August 2000, RFD has official declared 7 criteria (similar to ITTO Criteria) and 67 indicators, with recommendation to develop site specific C&I. With ITTO support, RFD set up a demonstration site studying specific C&I at Ngao Forest, Lampang Province. In conclusion, the national C&I and site specific C&I in Thailand has achieved only at some levels, but there are much more to be done in order to make them eligible to practice or implementation.

### **III. Preparation of the Report**

RFD has been the focal agency to draft this report by compiling information from other departments, in particular the National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department. After compiling raw information and also literature reviews from concerning studies and reports both in Thai and English, RFD drafted the report according to the format. On the 8 February 2005, RFD called relevant sectors concerning to forest management and conservation in Thailand to review the draft. The consultation meeting attained by several agencies, including RFD, DoNP and DMCR, private sectors, academic and NGOs concerning on forest conservation in Thailand.

---