

No. 1611.4/66



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14 November B.E.2562 (2019)

Dear UNFF Secretariat,

**Subject: Submission of Voluntary National Communications of Thailand**

Please refer to your email dated 6 November 2019 reminding UNFF Focal Point Thailand to submit Voluntary National Communications (VNCs) Report to UNFF Secretariat for assessing progress towards implementation of the UNSPF and will provide the basis for the “flagship publication” to be released in 2021.

In this connection, we are pleased to submit the VNCs of Thailand for your consideration. Please find the reports that are attached via the email to UNFF Secretariat.

Thank you very much for your support and please be assured of our full cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sapol Boonsermsuk". The signature is written in a cursive style.

(Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk)  
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for Director General

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# Voluntary National Contributions for Thailand

The Royal Forest Department (RFD), Department of National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), and Forest Industry Organization are the responsible agencies of the Government of Thailand for the management and conservation of Thailand's forest resources. Approximately 20.68 m hectare of the country is classified as forest in 2018. The country currently has an annual net loss in forest cover of approximately -0.02% and trended to reduce the reduction rate in the near future. The commitment of the Government of Thailand is to maintain the primary forest cover while increase forest land reclamation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas. Multi-approaches have been deploying including strictly law enforcement, people participatory in forest resource management, private reforestation promotion, standard value-chain of timber trading, urban forestry promotion, etc. Those strategies and policies aim at preserving, protecting, and rehabilitating the national forest cover, in particular our protected and national reserve forests.

As a member state of the UNFF, Thailand would like to express our strongly supports the announcing of Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) which represent a political commitment by Member states to contribute to the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and targets. In determining our VNCs, consideration was given to the National Forest Policy for managing forest sector of Thailand. The National Forest Policy of Thailand will be aligned with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) which is accounted to be among other things supports the implementation of the forest strategy of the country. This policy has been developed under the umbrella of the 20-Year National Strategic Plan of Thailand (2018-2037) to ensure alignment to various key national policies geared at achieving national sustainable development objectives. In particular, the development of the National Forest Policy of Thailand comes across the background of Thailand's international obligations for which the forest sector plays a significant role.

**Four key actions with associated targets have been identified as the country's Voluntary National Contributions, these are as follows:  
(Details of the progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 can be found from the VNCs of Thailand in Separated sheets)**

<b>Voluntary National Contributions (VNC)</b>	<b>Link to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development &amp; Global Forest Goal and targets</b>	<b>Link with Aichi Biodiversity Targets</b>
<p><b>1.Action:</b> Thailand has set up the commitment to increase forest cover of the country to achieve 55% of the total country area under the 20-Year National Strategic Plan (2018-2037). It means, forest area of the country will increase from 20.68 m h in 2018 to be 28.47 m ha in 2037.</p> <p><b>Targets:</b> Totally 147,514 ha of rehabilitated of degraded forests and forest plantations were made during 2015-2019. Detail is listed below</p>	<p>This action will support: <b>Global forest goal 1: Target 1.1</b> Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change</p> <p><b>Target: 1.1</b> Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide This</p>	<p>This action will support: <b>Aichi Biodiversity Goal B, Target 5:</b> Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>
<p><b>2. Action:</b> Enhancing people participatory to support the sustainable utilization of forest resource</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 2019 Community Forest Act has been enacted to support alternative community forest activities including enhancing livelihood of forest dependents</p>	<p>This action will support: <b>Global forest goal 2: Target 2.4</b> Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people</p> <p><b>Target: 2.4</b> The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased.</p>	

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Voluntary National Contributions (VNC)	Link to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development & Global Forest Goal and targets	Link with Aichi Biodiversity Targets
<p><b>3. Action:</b> Thailand has set up the commitment to increase forest cover of the country to achieve 55% of the total country area under the 20-Year National Strategic Plan (2018-2037). It means, forest area of the country will be classified as 25% for protected area, 15% for economic forest, and 15% for green area or stand of trees outside forest.</p> <p><b>Target:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approximately 18,400 ha has been preserved for biodiversity conservation within totally 184,000 ha of forest plantation under the management of Forest Industry Organization (FIO)</li> <li>2. Approximately 10.64 m ha of protected areas are now under the management of National Park Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP). Up to the present, protected areas under DNP consist of 6.32 m ha of 132 national parks, 60 wildlife sanctuaries, 73 non-hunting areas, and 53 arboretum, and 18 botanical gardens.</li> </ol>	<p>This action will support: <b>Global forest goal 3 and targets 3.1 &amp; 3.2:</b> Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests</p> <p><b>Targets: 3.1</b> The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased</p>	<p>This action will support: <b>Aichi Biodiversity Targets: Strategic Goal C:</b> To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.</p> <p><b>Target 11:</b> By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>
<p><b>4. Action:</b> Strengthen the policy and legislative framework for the forest sector</p> <p><b>Target:</b> The relevant forest laws and regulations such as Article 7 of Forest Plantation Act and 1941 Forest Act has been amended to support better governance and protection of forested areas.</p>	<p>This action will support: <b>Global forest Goal 5 and target 5.2:</b> Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p><b>Target: 5.2</b> Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide</p>	