

Executive Summary

Based on the World Heritage Committee's Decision at the 38th Session in Doha 2014 (38 COM 7B.71), Thailand has many attempt to show our intentions in response to those WHC's Decision. There are quite many issues that deal with management effectiveness of the Dong Phrayayen – Khao Yai Forest Complex World Heritage Property (DPKYFC WHP), particularly of illegal logging and trade of Siamese rosewood, land encroachment, impact of infrastructure development, and increase in management effectiveness.

Under the Part I of the report, in response to the issue on Siamese rosewood, Thailand has developed the Action Plan regarding Prevention and Suppression of Illegal Logging and Trade of Siamese Rosewood in DPKYFC WHP (2015 - 2019) with key measures on i) Prevention of illegal logging, ii) Suppression of illegal logging, trade and transportation, and iii) Promotion of public participation for Siamese rosewood conservation. The current outcomes of its implementation were also reported. Furthermore, Thailand also convened many dialogues and meetings to establish and to seek collaboration and cooperation at both national and international levels to address this issue in the region. The regional dialogue and bilateral meetings include Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and China were recently held and concrete outcomes were reported. With regard to pressure from encroachment and threats of the property, many efforts have been made with a variety of measures and implementations. As shown by the figures of prosecution process, law enforcement has been strengthened and continued to overcome the illegal encroachment in DPKYFC WHP. In addition, the DNP has established the plantation project under restoration program during year 2015 – 2019 in the total area of 20,000 hectares in the DPKYFC. In 2015, the DNP has already allocated the budget for the plantation maintenance program for the area of 2,100 hectares in the DPKYFC. Concerning illegal grazing activities in DPKYFC, the number of livestock has been decreased significantly and less than 30 cows and buffaloes were reported recently. In supporting the solutions to illegal encroachment problem, the DNP has produced related documents, including a map of land encroachment under the Cabinet Resolution, a map of management zone and a map of land use classification. Another relevant issue may be of establishment of the Advisory Committee of DPKYFC World Heritage Property by the DNP in 2014. This is to promote participation and cooperation of all stakeholders in the conservation management of DPKYFC. The Advisory Committee of DPKYFC consists of various stakeholders including local communities and agencies, private sectors, NGOs and governmental agencies. The first meeting was convened in December 2014 with fruitful outcomes of cooperation. Regard the concern on dam construction of Huay Samong, the Royal Irrigation Department and the DNP has developed the Environmental Impact Mitigation Plan to reduce negative impact of OUV of the property and a budget of 62 million Baht has been allocated in 2015 for implementation of a total of 21 activities/plans under the Environmental Impact Mitigation Plan. For another proposal of Huay Saton DAM project in Ta Phraya National Park, under the current situation, the DNP has rejected the proposal and requested the RID to consider another alternative site for the DAM away from the World Heritage area. For the issue on road construction and improvement in DPKYFC, effective mitigation measures and plan have been made, mainly on enforcement of speed limit and mitigation of impact from road widening with construction of wildlife corridors. The EIA reports of road widening projects for Highway 304 were endorsed by the National Environmental Committee Meeting in July 2014. Currently, it is under approval process from the Cabinet. Regarding the status of the old Road 3462, there is no plan or intention to widen or develop this road. According to item 10th of Decision, the English version of the updated DPKYFC World Heritage management plan is also submitted.

For Part II on current conservation issues, Thailand would like to indicate some key issues that may also deal with the status of the Dong Phrayayen – Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKYFC) World Heritage Property. Under the implementation of CITES, Thailand has been actively seeking cooperation at a global scale for the protection and conservation of Siamese rosewood and during the CITES CoP16 in Bangkok (2013), Thailand in collaboration with Vietnam successfully listed Siamese rosewood on CITES Appendix – II. The recent report on the concern of wild elephant and vehicle conflicts during long weekends and holidays in December 2014 - January 2015 in Khao Yai National Park. The DNP has established three stages of clear measures and guidelines to figure out this problem, short-term, mid-term and long-term measures. These will focus on many key activities such as raising awareness and consciousness, limit traffic control, installation and improvement of telecommunications or research on elephant behavior. Other identified issues may be of implementation of the Project on Enhancing the Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Thailand/Southeast Asia (Eco-BEST) in Khao Yai National Park under partnership between the GIZ and DNP. In the DPKYFC, one of the Project activities will be focused on payment for ecosystem services (PES) by development and use of economic tools to restore ecological system within two targeted villages and build up the ecological corridors between Khao Yai and Thap Lan National Parks, supporting sustainable financial mechanism in the DPKYFC. Another Project on Sister Parks Arrangement for Resources and Knowledge Sharing in Khao Yai National Park (SPARK) through collaboration between the DNP and representatives of the Great Smoky Mountain, USA, is also to be implemented to increase effective management of Khao Yai National Park.