



**Thailand's National Report on
State of Conservation
Dong Phrayayen – Khao Yai Forest Complex
(Thailand) (N590)
February 2018**



Submitted to World Heritage Centre, UNESCO





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A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "W. Simachaya".

Dr. Wijarn Simachaya
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Kingdom of Thailand

Executive Summary

The Kingdom of Thailand has implemented several policies and plans in accordance with the World Heritage Committee's Decision adopted at the 41st session of the General Assembly held in Krakow, Republic of Poland, in 2017. Those policies and plans focus on the solutions against illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood, World Heritage sites' encroachment, prevention and mitigation measures for impacts caused by mega development projects as well as other implementations guided by IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (RMM)'s recommendations in December 2016.

In the first part of the report, Thailand reports on the efforts made in promoting international cooperation by hosting the 3rd Regional Dialogue (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam) aimed at preventing and suppressing illegal logging and trade in Siamese Rosewood held in March 2017 and the 4th Regional Dialogue (ASEAN Member States and China) on Combating Trafficking of Wild Fauna and Flora in September 2017. This part includes the report on budget allocation for the fiscal year 2017-2018 and the performance report of the Action Plan to Prevent and Suppress Illegal Logging of Siamese Rosewood in Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKYFC) 2014-2019 under 4 principal measures. The report shows decreasing numbers of offense cases relating to Siamese Rosewood during 2014-2017 which is in line with the increase in numbers of patrol. There is no evidence of illegal logging of other species of trees as substitutes for Siamese Rosewood.

Regarding the prevention measures on forest encroachment, Thailand has established a long-term framework such as the process of engaging local people/communities in verifying land ownership in accordance with the Cabinet Resolution of 30 June 1998. Other prevention measures that comply with the recommendations of IUCN RMM in 2014 include the establishment of the working group and operation center in 2017 in addressing land-related problems in Thap Lan National Park.

As for the prevention and mitigation measures for impacts caused by mega development projects, Thailand has strictly and continuously implemented the environmental impact prevention and mitigation plan resulting from the expansion of Highway 304 and Huay Samong Dam Project. Regarding the World Heritage Committee's concern over the expansion of Highway 348 and Huay Satone Dam construction project, Thailand reaffirms that there will be no construction that would adversely affect the OUV of the DPKYFC as a result of the Cabinet Resolution of 19 September 2017 instructing the Ministry of Transport to withhold the expansion of Highway 348 in the DPKYFC. This Cabinet Resolution also instructs the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and other agencies concerned to review the necessity and suitability of constructing dam and reservoir in the DPKYFC, including the Huay Satone dam.

In response to the 14 recommendations of the IUCN RMM in December 2016, Thailand has reported on its progress according to the said recommendations. The progress includes the improvement of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) of the Siamese Rosewood Action Plan, coordination and cooperation among agencies concerned, law enforcement, joint operations among related agencies to prevent and suppress offenses on natural resources and environment, warehouse construction project for wood in dispute, promotion of community participation as advisory committee for the forest complex, strengthening of international cooperation in tackling Siamese Rosewood issue, the Thai Customs Department's training programs, Emergency Response Plan for Highway 304, consultations with Provincial Electricity Authority on the power line design in the wild animal connecting area, and prevention against poaching in the Huay Samong reservoir's area.

In the second part of the report, Thailand reports on the implementation of conservation initiatives in the DPKYFC, namely (1) Progress report on implementing the Road Map for the DPKYFC; (2) Report on implementation of measures related to Siamese Rosewood in accordance with CITES; (3) Projects and academic activities; (4) Survey on the occupancy of Bengal Tigers and its main preys. According to the study, Bengal Tigers are scattering in the central area of Thap Lan and Pang Sida National Parks, Bantengs are mainly found in the East of the forest complex while elephants and hoofed animals which are Bengal Tigers's main preys such as gaurs, deers, wild boars, and barking deers are commonly found in the forest complex; (5) Survey on Bengal Tiger population by Freeland and Panthera Foundations in 2017 which recorded 21 tiger pictures comprising 2 female adults, 1 male adult, and 2 cubs; (6) Establishment of Wildlife Research Center in the DPKYFC; (7) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and Foundation for Khao Yai National Park Protection on endangered species' conservation and restoration project in the DPKYFC; (8) MoU between Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation and 5 international organizations including IUCN, WWF, WCS, Freeland, and ZSL on strengthening cooperation in the areas of conservation and management of natural World Heritage sites; and (9) establishment of the Association for DPKYFC's conservation.