

Executive Summary

In February 2018, the Kingdom of Thailand submitted a report on the State of Conservation of Dong Phrayen - Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKYFC) and a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decision adopted at its 41st Session in Krakow, Poland, in 2017, which requested Thailand to submit a State of Conservation Report on DPKYFC in 2018 and 2019. This report on the State of Conservation of DPKYFC is a progress report on the implementation of the aforementioned World Heritage Committee's Decision as of November 2019. The main topics include approaches and initiatives aiming at efficiently addressing illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood, encroachment of World Heritage Site, as well as preventing and mitigating impacts of mega development projects to the World Heritage Site, as well as other implementation as recommended by IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission (RMM) in December 2016.

The first part of the report illustrates Thailand's efforts to promote international cooperation on resolving illegal logging of Siamese Rosewood and other natural resources. From 2014 to 2019, Thailand has hosted international dialogues and training as well as participated in several international meetings and 16 events on relevant topics at bilateral and multilateral levels in the region. Results following the implementation of the action plan to prevent and suppress illegal logging and trade of Siamese Rosewood in Dong Phrayayen - Khao Yai Forest Complex (2014-2019) with four major measures are also provided in this section. The core finding is the statistical data on the number of Siamese Rosewood-related criminal cases, which has significantly dropped from 642 cases (in 2014) to 29 cases (in 2019), which corresponds to the increasing frequency and intensiveness of patrolling during this period. At present, there is no sign/evidence that suggested illegal logging of other tree species to substitute Siamese Rosewood.

Regarding the prevention measures on forest encroachment, Thailand has reported the implementation results to the World Heritage Centre in its 2017 and 2018 State of Conservation reports. At present, there is no new encroachment in the World Heritage Site for resort construction. To further balance the need between natural conservation and sufficient use of natural resources by communities inside the protected forest areas across the country, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand has worked on the amendment and the promulgation of the National Parks Act B.E. 2562 and the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act B.E. 2562 during the past 2 years.

As for the prevention and mitigation measures to lessen the impact from 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. Moreover, the World Heritage Committee's concern over the expansion of Highway 348 and Huay Satone Dam construction project has been taken into consideration. In this regard, Thailand can affirm that there will be no construction that would have a negative impact on the OUV of the DPKYFC. Moreover, the Thai Cabinet has passed a resolution on 19 September 2017, ordering the Ministry of Transportation to halt the expansion of Highway 348. The Cabinet also instructed the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and other concerned agencies to review the necessity and suitability of constructing dams and reservoirs in the DPKYFC. Furthermore, Thailand is reporting progress on the implementation regarding the 14 IUCN RMM recommendations in December 2016 in addition to the status report on DPKYFC in February 2018.

The second part of this report provides results from implementation of conservation initiatives in the DPKYFC, namely (1) research projects in 2018-2019; (2) tigers conservation and population restoration for endangered wildlife species; (3) capacity building for World Heritage Site management; (4) joint training programme between Thailand and Cambodia on a Ranger Training Course on Transboundary Law Enforcement, (5) collaboration with partner organizations, such as Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) - Thailand, DPKYFC Conservation Society, National Park Association, Foundation for Khao Yai National Park Protection, FREELAND Foundation, Defence Technology Institute, Faculty of Forestry – Kasetsart University, and Puean Burabha Foundation. Partnerships are committed to research projects, training, and capacity building. An international workshop on hornbill research, a study of gibbons in Khao Yai National Park, a study of released freshwater crocodiles in Pang Sida National Park, technology applications to protect natural resources, and a project to encourage poachers to protect the areas are among various collaborative implemented projects.